

Connecting National and Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

NL



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Volume 18, Number 2

Special Palanca Edition

May 2000

Editor's Note:

There being a shortage of articles from the Executive Committee, it was decided to publish this issue as a special edition on "Getting Back to the Basics" concerning palanca.

Our apologies for the lateness of this issue. It is our hope that it reaches you before the NLS Annual Meeting. It may give us something to talk about constructively, and some encouragement to take back to our movements a renewed sense of the original ideal of palanca.

Perhaps you've noted the increase in religious content in weekly TV series, news, movies, books and more. This has served to make expressing a public and private faith a "legitimate," acceptable thing to do.

This ought to carry over into a renewed practice of leveraging a weekend with sacrificial prayer. Now it's "okay" to spend time in prayer right there in full view of others as we pray for the Holy Spirit to work wonders on the weekends we pray for.

— Rev. Carroll Lang



Back to the Basics -

Palanca

Now that I am the pastor of a prison congregation, whose sole support will be from individuals and congregations who send us regular gifts or put us on their budgets, I have come to realize the power and importance of prayer. In fact, when I go to churches and tell them what the prison congregation is doing and solicit their support of this ministry, I tell them that we need their prayer, their attendance at worship, gifts, prayer, their support by putting us on their congregation's budget and prayer.

We are told, in the New Testament, that "the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James 5:16b). To be a righteous person is to obey God, who in his earthly form commanded us to love and pray for each other.

Prayer is the power behind palanca, the lever. Palanca is prayer. Palanca is not something written on a piece of paper. Palanca is not a trinket or knick-knack or any other item no matter how lovingly made. Palanca is prayer. It is the actual taking time out at times that may be entirely "inconvenient" to pray for all who are attending the weekend. Palanca is not even intended to be directed at individuals. Palanca is meant for the entire weekend community.

Some time ago, Dr. Randy Byrd, a staff cardiologist at the San Francisco General Hospital, conducted his own ten-month experiment with prayer. Of 393 patients to the coronary care unit of the hospital, he assigned 192 of them to Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish congregations, giving these people the names and a brief description of their condition, and asking them to pray for the patients daily. The other 201 were not prayed for. No one in that hospital except Dr. Byrd knew who was being prayed for, not even the patients. The results were startling. None of those prayed for needed breathing tubes, for instance, and the prayed-for group fared far better than the not prayed for group. Prayer has a strong effect, even when you are not aware you're being prayed for.

Recently I noted one or two movements touting the fact that to receive palanca from their movement, all one has to do is log on to their website and download it. Where is the prayer and sacrifice in that? No, that is definitely *NOT* palanca. What have we done to palanca? We have relegated it to a nice, artfully created poster with sentimental and spiritual sayings on it, but prayer and sacrifice are not apparent in such "palanca."

People of the Via de Cristo or any movement based on the Cursillo© movement, I call you back to the basic premise of palanca. Give up something significant while you pray; assume an uncomfortable position as you pray; lay face down and pray; stand on your head and pray; get up at 11pm, 12am, 2am 4am to pray; pray instead of lunch; get together with several others each day to pray for the weekend; spend a solid hour in prayer, anything that is a sacrifice while praying. Tell the people on the weekend what you plan to do, and then do it; but, don't just send a poster, trinket or letter and forget about prayer and sacrifice.

— Rev. Carroll Lang, Editor

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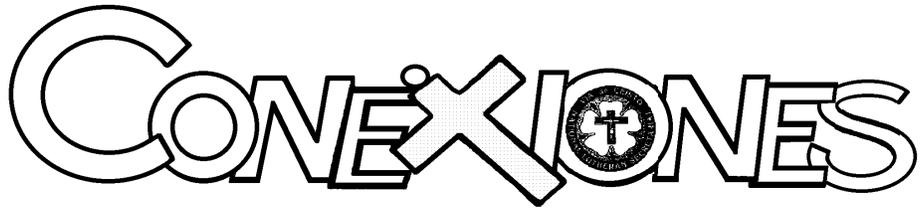
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CONEXIONES is the official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, a national association of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movement, representing over 50,000 who have participated in 29 movements across the U.S. Via de Cristo is a Lutheran 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, ELCA bishops and the Directors of the Division for Ministry and the Division for Ministry in Daily Life about the activities of the National Lutheran Secretariat and its affiliated secretariats. Subscriptions to the above are free. If you know one of the above is not receiving CONEXIONES, call 800-214-1155.

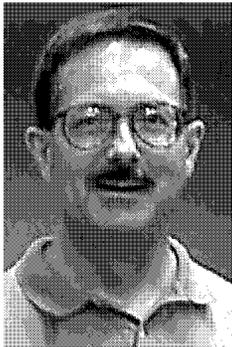
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Material for CONEXIONES

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 above address. DEADLINES: January 1 for February (spring) edition; April 1 for May (summer) edition; August 15 for September (Annual Meeting) edition and December 1 for December (winter) edition.

Jottings from Our Spiritual Director

A columnist for the local paper lives across the street from me, and every time I see him mowing his lawn, walking the dogs, etc., I wonder what kind of a life a columnist has. How does he get the ideas for his columns? By reading other columns in other papers? This morning I



Pastor Richard Dow

paid careful attention to both Dear Abby and Billy Graham, who have daily articles next to each other on the entertainment page. It worked; I came up with an idea for a column. The minute I get this committed to paper, I will pursue the remainder of the bracing life I'm sure a newspaper writer has... walking the dogs, mowing

my lawn, and in general, appearing to his neighbors as a gentleman-farmer who does the world a daily, consummate favor by sharing his views. Maybe I can keep this up long enough to get the entire lawn mowed.

Don't bet on it. But, first things first. The column.

First, let's clear some notes off my all too cluttered desk. Many of them are about phone calls I've gotten pertaining to who can serve as an SD on a weekend. In all cases I actually returned the calls and worked out a plan with the inquirers. We decided that qualifications included (a) serving with a Lutheran SD, (b) being ordained to formal ministry by a recognized denomination, and (c) having someone else in the movement attest to the person's high character all add up to a highly acceptable choice for SD in special cases. Count me as one of the many, many Lutheran SD's who will tell you that they eagerly look forward to serving with clergy of other denominations. Jesus prayed for oneness in his church in John 17 - those prayers are constantly answered on Via de Cristo weekends.

But, there's that great word, "Clergy." Most denominations set aside and consecrate qualified and called people to forms of ministry in addition to clergy. Are they OK for weekends? Yes, as long as the above criteria have been met. Encourage these valued servants to serve within the parameters of their calling, too. Can they lead a com-

munion service, for example? Welcome these people with their special gifts.

If the electric prose and burning issues of this article have piqued your interest, please remember that the wise but humble SD's gathered for the NLS Annual Meeting last summer asked you to "think on these things" in your local secretariats and get back to Pastor Dow before the 2000 meeting. The top of Pastor Dow's desk would confound the architect of a rat's nest, but rest assured that very few replies have found their way to that desk. There's still time to reply.

I know that it's usually one idea per column, but before I'm off to mow the yard and walk the dogs, I have another. It's called "patience." Northern Louisiana has been particularly resistant to participation in a Via de Cristo weekend. I had begun to wonder if there were some sort of "religious embargo" in place as one crossed the border from Texas to our state. Maybe not. Central Louisiana, thanks to the work of Mike Swecker and local enthusiasts, is doing well in this area. Further interest in participating in a weekend from the northern part of the state is in evidence as well. Pray. See you in Florida this summer.

- Pastor Dow

Where to Go In 2002?

At this year's NLS Annual Meeting to be held in Tampa, Florida, bids will be open to any movement (or group of movements) willing to host the NLS Annual Meeting in 2002. Without question hosting an Annual Meeting is a major undertaking, however, great strides have been made in the last few years to aid in that undertaking. Guidelines have been established (and continue to be updated) that outline in detail the responsibilities of both the NLS and the Host Committee. Additionally, past host committees have provided extensive notes, forms and suggestions.

Being part of a Host Committee is not only rewarding, but can be a strengthening and unifying experience for your movement. Anyone interested may contact Debbie Speights, 1336 12th Street, NE, Hickory, NC 28601 or call at 828/327-6108.



Help with the Harvest

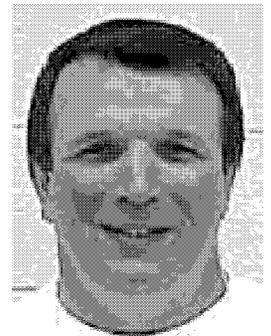
Bolivia Update

Mike Swecker, Vice President of Outreach

We need your prayers, team participation and financial support. As previously reported, by the grace of God, Via de Cristo is going to Bolivia. At this time we are looking at mid-summer of 2001 in La Paz, Bolivia. We are considering applicants for this team. Applicants need to:

- < Have a solid understanding of the Via de Cristo fundamentals.
- < Speak Spanish.
- < Smile in any language!

If this is your call, contact the NLS Vice President of Outreach: Mike Swecker
952.884.8458 Office
952.884.0518 Fax
mikjul@juno.com



Mike Swecker

People with heart conditions or asthma should not apply due to the altitude (13,000 feet). Altitude or any other obstacle however, does not restrict your prayers and other support! How else can you participate? **Your financial help is needed. Please make checks payable to Via de Cristo with a notation in the memo area specifying "Bolivia Outreach."** Send your checks to NLS Treasurer:

Phil Lustig
9937 Majorca PL
Boca Raton, FL 33434

We greatly appreciate your efforts and thank the Lord of the harvest for the good work that he has begun...remembering that he will be faithful to complete it! (Philemon 1:6)

Come, Holy Spirit!

Palanca or Memento?

Do you have an envelope or bag at home filled with things from the weekends that you have been involved in? Do you go back and read these items over and over again? Well I do, and I can tell you I cherish each one of these memories. They give me strength when I am down. They give me encouragement when I need a push. But are they palanca or just souvenirs or mementos? The answer is, it depends. So let's make sure we all agree on what palanca is and is not. From some of the things that I see today, I am not sure that the distinction between palanca and memento is clear.

So what makes anything palanca? The answer is very easy. Palanca is sacrificial. In some small way it demonstrates the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us as he gave his life that we might be saved. If your palanca is not sacrificial, it is not palanca. It may be a wonderful gift and very inspirational, but if it did not require sacrifice, it is not palanca. Given that very simple requirement, let's examine some palanca practices and see if they pass the test.

Is *prayer* palanca? That one is easy. Prayer is sacrificial and is palanca. It takes your time and energy in an important and beneficial way. It takes a real and conscious effort to pray for pilgrims on the weekend and thus prayer is palanca. In fact, it is the most meaningful form of palanca.

Let's try another. If I buy and give a bookmark to a pilgrim, is that palanca? The answer is no. The bookmark could, however, become palanca. The key here is making this a sacrificial gift. In that sense almost anything can become palanca. Suppose I pray over that bookmark and ask our Lord and Savior to use it to mark the passages that he knows the owner will need to guide her in her life. At that point I would say that this is palanca. The moment we make our gift a sacrificial one it becomes palanca. It becomes an example of our servanthood for Christ and that is a key distinction between palanca and memento.

One more. If I sit down and make crosses for the pilgrims on a weekend is that palanca? The answer here is yes. If you give, as a servant, of your time in creation, then the thing that you create is palanca. But, be careful. Do not make this what I call "incomplete palanca." You really need to make it complete. You need to take a few minutes, each day of the weekend, to pray that the sacrifice you made will be an example to the pilgrim in his/her life. You see, the intent of palanca is not to make things, but to be an example of Christ-like servanthood. You are trying to demonstrate, through

your actions, the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us. This is indeed a tall order.

One final example. When I spend significant time writing personal notes to people who are attending weekends, is that palanca? Most certainly it is. We all know how much time and effort that takes. It is certainly sacrificial. It does demonstrate the act of servanthood and can be easily enhanced by prayer to undergird what we write. This is a great form of palanca but, some of us are not gifted in the writing area, so don't consider this the best or only form of palanca available. It is just one of many. Creativity can be unlimited in palanca. One great suggestion I heard is the donation of time at a soup kitchen in the name of a pilgrim. A great act of servanthood.

Does this focus on sacrifice mean that the remarkable and wonderful technology we have at our fingertips cannot be used to create palanca? Of course not. The key here is that technology can assist us in creating the means to inform others of our palanca but is not the palanca in and of itself. Let me try to clarify that. Downloading palanca from a well-intentioned web site and printing it is not palanca. You can turn that into palanca by adding the element of sacrifice to the gift. Suppose that you download a beautiful poem and graphic from a palanca web site. I might do this because I am creatively challenged. What I have here is the start of a great palanca project but it is not complete. I must then make the sacrifice. I must demonstrate my servanthood. I could do this by adding a note to the page telling the pilgrim that I will be in prayer for them for an hour during their weekend. When I then complete my commitment by praying for the pilgrim and sacrificing my time in servanthood, I have genuine palanca.

I think at this point you have picked up the common threads. They are PRAYER and SERVANTHOOD. These are clearly sacrificial and thus they are palanca. If your palanca can pass the test of these elements, then it is true palanca. If it cannot, it is not palanca, and it is only a pretty gift or trinket.

In closing, I would like to reiterate one point. Prayer is the ultimate palanca. We all know that prayer drives our movement and our local weekends, but it also is key to the fulfillment of the weekend for each pilgrim. I would trade a hundred mementos for one hour of sacrificial prayer. Think of the memento as the notification tool for your prayer sacrifice, and you can't go wrong.

Mark Carnes, National Palanca Chairperson

A Pilgrim's View

One thing you will never be able to tell me, is that palanca is a waste of time, or is not necessary, or is not appreciated. I know for a fact that is not true. During my Via de Cristo weekend, I was virtually assaulted with so much information that my head started hurting, but every time I returned to my table and found letters for me, I knew that someone had gotten something out of it all, and I knew I had to stay and get it myself.

Prayer is never a waste of time, and palanca is even less so. With palanca you are praying with someone 50 feet, 50 miles, or 50 countries away. That prayer gives strength you would never get to support in person.

As you pray for the rollos, you give strength and support to laymen, some of whom never have spoken in public in their lives, to get up front of the crowd and speak about the only thing that matters, faith in life. You also give strength to those who have been listening and worshiping all day to stay at the peak of attentiveness and receptiveness. I believe the prayers of the palanca team gave me that extra boost when my mind had started wandering, and I was able to grab hold of truth that I would possibly have missed.

Is it appreciated? Even today, when I am feeling depressed, or lonely, or unloved, I will take out my "Palanca Folder" and just start reading what is there. Not for any particular thing, but just as an overall reminder of what the weekend was like, and what the brotherhood did for my spiritual and mental condition. But most of all to remember that there are those out there who I may never see, who care about me, not because of who I am, but because of whose I am.

What does palanca mean to me? To paraphrase Rush Limbaugh: Christian Brotherhood, the way it ought to be!

James F. Spellers, Participant in Brothers in Blue #5
North Central Correctional Facility, Rockwell City, Iowa



"...you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many" (2 Corinthians 1:11).

Palanca -

What the Founders Say about Palanca

From *The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement*, 1992 edition, page 133, paragraph 333 we read:

Moreover, the Cursillo is sustained by *one or more prayer communities* which, outside of the Cursillo and from a distance, take upon themselves the responsibility outlined so clearly by Pope Pius XII in his encyclical on the Mystical Body: "This is a truly tremendous mystery on which one can never meditate often enough; that the salvation of many is dependent upon the prayers and voluntary mortifications of the members of the Mystical Body of Christ." Prayers and sacrifices on behalf of the Cursillo, which in Christian terminology are called... "palancas," are crucial to its spiritual success.

In the *Leaders' Manual for Cursillos in Christianity* by Juan Hervás, 1967 edition, page 50, 15. Prayer in the Cursillo, we read:

...we cannot fail to emphasize that prayer is the principal medium of a spiritual order on which the success of the Cursillo rests. The Christian community, or part of it, prays earnestly before and during the Cursillo.... The Cursillistas are shown that they are not alone in their task, but that they walk along in fellowship, protected by a bond of prayer. They are motivated to pray; they are little by little introduced to its different forms; and they are gradually brought to the conviction that prayer will be their principal means of perseverance....

Also, on page 53, last paragraph, we read:

...while the priests and lay leaders are giving the Cursillo, they are supported by the prayer and sacrifices of a prayerful rearguard. ...the religious communities, all the cursillistas together with their families are performing the most important part of the apostolate: that of praying. ...The Way of the Cross, days without smoking or drinking or taking dessert after meals, ...fasting and discipline, periods of silence in the office, at work, are guarantees of the apostolic success for those who lead the Cursillo."

In the *Leaders' Manual*, 1982 edition, page 103, PALANCA, we read:

On the Cursillo weekend, palanca letters containing promises of prayer and sacrifice to be given for the participants give witness to the solidarity of the members of the Church.

In his pastoral letter on the Cursillo, Bishop Juan Hervás quotes this first orientation from the *Leaders' Manual*:

"We should have the intimate and absolute conviction that everything in the Cursillo is the work of God's grace. It is necessary, therefore, to pray and sacrifice oneself for the spiritual and apostolic success of the same. The miracles of God's grace are granted to confident prayer, accompanied by sacrifice, not knowledge or

experience."

Historically, palanca for the three days has always been seen as intense prayer and self-sacrifice by the outside leaders and communities (group reunions, ultreyas, cloistered religious, etc.) for the community being formed on the weekend. *The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement* (pp. 144-145) expresses the same understanding of what palanca is:

"The prayers and sacrifices for the 3 day Cursillo, known as palanca, are of decisive importance for its spiritual success. The three days are supernaturally backed by persons and communities who pray and make sacrifices for their brothers and sisters, that these might be open to truth and grace.

"The spiritual presence of these praying communities should be communicated to the cursillistas, but without over-dramatization. On the contrary, it should be made apparent that it is normal for Christians to pray and sacrifice for others. Though not knowing them personally, these Christians know from experience the effects of their attitude on the conversion process. Such communities are a witness to the possibility and transcendence of being Christian in any part of the world, and to the fact that God continues making himself present in the world through groups of persons who live the Gospel and give themselves for the Christianization of the world.

"Palanca shows the ecclesial community as a community conscious of the salvation of the group making the Cursillo, a community which feels committed to this group. They are a reflection of Christ, the Savior in the community."

A good yardstick of any local movement is its attitude toward palanca, its overall focus on it, and how the spirit of it is incorporated in the lives of the spiritual advisors and lay leaders. In this regard, a concern for developing a spirit of prayer and self-denial should be the overriding factor.

Within the movement, we must be vigilant that the term palanca no be misunderstood and abused so that its interior call and meaning is overshadowed by incidental trimmings. Colorful posters and banners are not palanca; neither are flowers, edibles, friendship letters or good wishes.

This is false palanca under the guise of 'nice things.' Prayer and self-denial are not 'nice things,' but are more effective in securing God's grace.... The palanca should be presented without treating it as something like a "trump card," without dramatization. It should be made clear that it is normal for a person to make sacrifices for others, even if they do not know them personally.

The emphasis should be on general palanca with the outside community offering prayer and sacrifice for the community that is being formed on the three days. Personal palanca should be limited to that from a relative or sponsor.

Minutes of the NLS Executive Board Conference Call

Conference Call of NLS February 27, 2000 8:00 PM (EST)

Doug/Doug Burrows called the roll. Others present were Lang, Lustig, Speights, Swecker, Hightower and Dow. Oran Gough will join us later. Pastor Lang opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the Florida Mid-Year meeting were approved. (Lustig/Speights).

Treasurer's Report: Phil Lustig reported that the checkbook balance was \$14,027.14. In addition there is an \$11,000 CD which will mature in May. Phil has sent dues reminders to all Secretariats, and this has helped the cash balance.

Outreach: Louisiana-Mike reported that we have been approached by LA. They have been participating with folks in Texas and are now interested in starting their own secretariat. They have been given the basic template, but are now looking for a start-up kit published by NLS. Mike said that Dick Emery is not familiar with some of the components of this start-up kit and is to check with Jerry Vehrs. It appears that they have a good balance of both lay and clergy members; Mike and Doug are considering a visit with them.



Lucy Hightower
NLS Secretary

Utah-they plan to attend NLS 2000 and have selected representatives for both years 2000 and 2001.

Montana - They will make an effort to attend NLS 2000.

Norway-There is on going contact by e-mail. There are six or seven interested persons. A pastor from Minnesota is interested in going to Oslo; a seminary student who just made a weekend and recently finished an internship in Norway is interested. There is also some interest from the Kahls. The Finns and Swedes may help, too. A representative of Tres Dias is in Latvia and might be a possible resource; Walk to Emmaus has been unreceptive toward helping. Mike stated that he would welcome the names of any leaders who might be helpful in this area.

Bolivia-Mike has some Spanish material from Cursillo. He has forwarded this on to Sheldon Graf in Bolivia. Sheldon will re-

view and adapt the material as is appropriate for the local culture. The local church there is willing to help. There are persons in Bolivia who are willing to come to the United States in order to attend a Spanish speaking weekend. Phil stated that Dick Emery's group is currently holding Spanish speaking weekends at least once a year. There are a man and woman in Cuba who are interested in helping Sheldon. Sheldon is hoping to hold their first weekend there in year 2000 or 2001.

Pacific Northwest-This is an area where VdC might begin to expand. Mike would like e-mail addresses of any persons who have relocated to that area.

Montana- A weekend may be happening soon.

Website-Outreach information is being updated and posted by Mike.

(At this point Oran Gough joined the meeting.)

Doug reported that New York has held its first weekend and that A-OK should be holding their weekends very soon. Doug asked Pastor Dow if he was familiar with the Louisiana situation. He is not. This group is located nearer San Antonio.

Phil asked about the trademark/copyright issue for the Logo. The patent office seems to have problem with the "VdC" use. He asked if anyone knows of other places where we use VdC. It would be helpful to be able to furnish this to the patent office. Lang will send a copy of *Conexiones* showing this on the cover. Otherwise the ® and TM are OK.

Administration: Debbie reported that things seem to be going well since our meeting in St. Petersburg. The registration forms have been mailed. The full time use of Fox Hall has not been confirmed; consequently, we will continue to plan use of other areas whenever Fox is unavailable. The registration form is on the website, but a few things need "cleaning up." It is basically very good. It was suggested that Dennis Hogan might put some welcoming comments out there and that Debbie might also make some comments.

Some speakers have been secured; Frank Langhoff has committed. Phil asked that, as soon as people have committed, their transportation be secured. Pastor Dow stated that Langhoff's ticket has already been purchased. Since Florida is responsible for his ticket, the payment request should be sent to them. NLS will pay for Mark Carnes. Either MN or NLS will pay for Diane Purcell. It was noted that Diane will need to be at the convention a day early to review the books and financial controls. We still need some-

one to handle the seminar on insurance.

Phil stated that Gold Coast held a fund raising event and raised \$900. Matching funds will provide another \$700. The secretariats will be meeting on March 10-11. Otherwise, the people are excited and ready.

Dow stated that Langhoff is looking for a layperson to share the podium. Might it be possible to have a two denominational celebration? There is nothing definite yet on whether or not the Florida bishop will be there. Doug suggested to Debbie that there might be a possibility of including a representative of Kairos Outside as well as an Episcopal representative address the Convention very briefly inasmuch as these persons will be in the area at that time.

Newsletter: Lang has articles from Debbie, Mike, Dennis, and Doug. Doug will send a replacement for the Christmas Story. Phil asked why only the Lay Director from his secretariat is receiving *Conexiones*.

Rollo Rewrites: The chairperson for rewriting the rollo booklets has asked to step down. Five rewrites have been completed and the committee is meeting in Ohio on March 11 to continue work. Doug will be going to A-OK group and will speak to a possible individual there who might be a suitable chairperson. Karen Schneider is willing to do some of the editing, but really wants to step down.

Doug reported that at a meeting of the Fourth Day Movements he learned that the Catholic Movement has completely rewritten their materials. They have left little room for individual input other than personal sharing. Their weekend runs from 7 PM on Thursday through 7 PM on Sunday. Discussion and posters have been included—even on Sunday. Doug has turned this material over to Karen for her review. Their material may help us to do a better job with ours.

Tom Sarg, a leader in the Catholic organization, feels that the proper name for Leadership School should be School for Leaders. In a talk by Sarg, he said that the intent is to educate people about the Cursillo movement; these people are considered leaders already. There is a possibility that he may be able to address our meeting.

At the NLS convention next year, Minnesota plans to have a celebration of the twentieth anniversary of NLS. Randy Mullins and Doug are working on a presentation. Randy is willing to head this up. They plan to use slides, PowerPoint, etc.

TEC: Doug wondered what the possibilities might be for getting TEC started under NLS

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and suggested that perhaps this is something for Outreach (Mike) to be thinking about. Phil said that Peter Brown from Western North Carolina was trying to get them going at Gold Coast. Doug would like to find some place for NLS to plug in with TEC.

Website: A lengthy, general discussion of the website began with Oran. It was felt that, while the graphics are very nice, we are lacking in fundamental information, rollo outlines for example. There was a discussion of including a map of the United States featuring links to local secretariats. Other possibilities are a page for ordering materials, a page to enter information and a display of Via de Cristo products available for purchase. It was noted that people with slower computers are experiencing difficulty accessing the site due to the graphics heavy environment. It was suggested that, on the roster of secretariats, the state location be the first thing listed before the secretariat name in order to help persons find a secretariat in a particular state. The proposed map should have the same format. A further suggestion was made in reference to ordering materials from the website. If we have a list of mate-

rials available, it would be possible to then click on a link which would allow persons to send e-mails with their orders. Oran also agreed to insert, in alphabetical order, the state name prior to the secretariat names.

Pictures and information about the St. Petersburg location are needed for the website. Debbie will take care of this.

Other things needed to make the site more user friendly are the ability to locate and download materials quickly. Oran also needs a knowledgeable person to help maintain the website.

Surveys and Secretariat Rosters: Lucy reported that she had mailed out survey forms and copies of the secretariat rosters to all secretariats. About one third of the secretariats have returned them. She has been sending the updated roster information to Pastor Carroll for his database and mailing list and to Oran so he can update the information on the website. Mike offered to help Lucy follow up on those secretariats that have not responded so far.

Leadership Materials: Lucy reported that the information for the Leadership Manual has been slow coming in. She talked with

Wayne Ford, chairman of the committee, and he said that he would contact the members about their materials. The deadline was to have been February 29th. Lucy cited the problems in trying to develop materials in this fashion. Communication is difficult, writing skills of the participants vary, materials are being presented in varying formats, and timeline is difficult to manage. She also expressed concerns about the verbatim duplication of materials for the 101 (4 hour) and 201 (8 hour) courses. While some duplication may be inevitable, as of now there is virtually no difference in any of the materials submitted.

Other Business:

Pastor Carroll will send a copy of the next *Conexiones* to Oran for publication on the website.

Our next meeting will be a conference call on April 30, 2000, at 8:00 PM (EST).

Pastor Dow closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Hightower, Secretary
National Lutheran Secretariat.

Conference Call of NLS April 30, 2000 8:00 PM (EST)

Doug called the roll. Present were Doug Burrows, Mike Swecker, Phil Lustig, Debbie Speights, Pastor Richard Dow, Pastor Carroll Lang, and Lucy Hightower. Pastor Lang opened the meeting with a prayer.

The final draft of the minutes was approved as written. (Lustig/Speights).

The Treasurer (Lustig) reported the cash balance is \$14,888.32. The Certificate of Deposit for \$11,000 will mature next week and will have accrued approximately \$300 to \$400 in interest. When the CD matures, Phil will change it from a six month CD to a week to week rolling CD so the money will be available in July.

Administration: Debbie reported that, according to Dennis, plans are moving along smoothly in Florida. The use of Fox Hall has not been completely firmed up. We can get it on Thursday afternoon, but not Friday morning for the forum and business meeting. Debbie wanted to know what the Board wants to do about moving around if Fox is unavailable. Phil said that Cheryl, our contact at Eckerd College, has indicated that, with the closing of school semester, she will be able to devote full time to the scheduling of our meeting. On Friday the forum conducted by Frank Langhoff will run from 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM. The suggestion is that, wherever the forum is held, we simply remain in the same place for the business meeting, which will run from 11:00 AM until Noon. Fox Hall is available for the other meetings on

Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. All of the speakers have been firmed up. In addition to Frank Langhoff, Pastor Dow will be the keynote speaker. The seminars will be as follows: Diane Purcell, Legal and Financial Issues; Tracy Ziemke, Purpose and Role of the Local Secretariat; Dave Sagisser, Team Formation and Training; and Mark Carnes, Palanca on the National Level. There will be a brief address by representatives of Kairos and the Episcopal Cursillo® at eleven Friday morning.

We need a representative of the college to speak, but the selection of this person has not been finalized. Pastor Dow said that it might be possible to have the Bishop of Florida there on Thursday as well. The registration form as it appears on the website does not print up well. It should be on one page rather than two, and the boxes for checking need to be fixed. Doug said he would contact Oran about the problem tomorrow. Jack Packer has accepted the position as publications chairperson. The other committee chairs are the same.

Lay Talk Revision Committee: Doug reported that Karen Schneider is still functioning as chairperson but wants to step down from the responsibility of writing. Their committee will be in a day early for the convention but will make their own arrangements. The Sunday talk revisions are complete; the committee is now working on the Friday talks.

Treasurer: Phil reported that the secretariats have been doing well with sending in their money. He then verified which secretariats were inactive. There seems to have been some confusion about the amount that secretariats should be paying.

The formula we use is \$250 per year or \$2 per person who made a weekend during the year—whichever is greater.

The trademark registration application has been approved. It will become final thirty days from the date of publication date of May 9, 2000. If there is no objection, we will then be authorized to use the ® symbol in connection with Via de Cristo.

Phil pointed out that due to the Universal Connectivity Charge the cost of long distance calls has automatically increased by 8 _ percent. As the teleconference calling will probably run around \$1600 this year, he encouraged the board to look at options in teleconferencing via the Internet. He feels that it might be less expensive to buy whatever equipment and software is needed to get into conferencing on the Internet.

Annual Surveys: Lucy reported that there are still quite a few secretariats that have not yet sent in their annual survey forms and secretariat rosters. Follow-ups will continue.

Leadership Training Material Committee: Lucy reported that progress has been slow due to difficulty in communicating with some members of the committee. The first draft of the four-hour course has been mailed to Chuck Simmons for review and editing. Doug asked that the manuscript be sent to him as soon as changes suggested by Chuck are made. The eight-hour course is not very far along. At this point it is difficult to say how far along it will be by the annual meeting. The board expressed concern because work was to have been completed by the NLS meeting in July,

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and the committee will not be functional after that time. Other alternatives for completing the material may have to be considered.

Website: Lucy reported that she had contacted Oran by e-mail about the possibility of her being able to update the website database. Oran was receptive to this idea but said that we would need to purchase the software for Lucy to do this. Doug asked if he could handle procurement of the necessary software. Phil said he would and will send it on to Lucy right away. Lucy will need some instruction and help in using it. Doug also suggested Scotty Ward as a person who might be able to give Oran some help with maintaining the website.

Outreach: Mike asked that the following report, which had been distributed by e-mail, be inserted as part of his report.

“Encouraging communication has been established with the office of the bishops of Norway. We are sending additional brochures along with letters of introduction to the secretary to the Bishops for distribution to all that would be involved with the decision to meet with us and discuss the Via de Cristo further. Our hope is to have an audience with them this summer. I’m optimistic that we will receive a positive response in the next few weeks.

We did receive a response from the Archbishop of the Church of Sweden stating that their schedules would not accommodate us this summer. We were hopeful that we could meet with them on the same trip to meet with the Bishops in Norway. We will consider a response to them after we hear from Norway.

The Latvia Via de Cristo is moving slowly ahead. Pastor Martins Irbes and three people

from his congregation just participated in a VDC weekend in Indiana (Martins home). A committee is in place from Indiana to bring this to fruition.

The Bolivia Via de Cristo start up is well underway with leaders from that country scheduled to attend a Spanish speaking weekend in Florida in November. A committee made up of Spanish speaking folks from around the country is in place to begin team formation and planning for a summer 2001 weekend in Bolivia.

I’ve just returned from a couple of days in Lafayette, Louisiana where I met with a group of 25 cursillistas (including 2 pastors) to discuss a VDC startup in their state. They have been sending and will continue to send folks through the Texas weekends. I would expect them to be in a position to hold a weekend in 18 months. Although it’s a small Lutheran community their enthusiasm was inspiring. And the food...You haven’t had potluck until you have had it Cajun style!

Arizona is in the process of changing its organizational structure from Cursillo® to Via de Cristo.”

In addition, on-going contact is being made with **Montana** and **Utah**. **Louisiana** wants permission to be added to the national website right away. Mike said he would get the information to Oran immediately.

Pastor Dow: Reported that Pastor Sistar is putting together an ecumenical service for Thursday. As to the content of the forum on Spiritual Direction, Pastor Dow understands that the presenter has experience and is working with his bishop on how to teach Spiritual Direction. There will be emphasis on practical application. He feels that the content will be what we are looking for.

Newletter: Pastor Lang needs information for the May issue as soon as possible. A general discussion took place

about how the move in recent months has been toward “form” letters and impersonal communication. Doug asked Pastor Carroll to contact Mark Carnes for an article on palanca for publication in the next newsletter. Those responsible for writing articles in agreed to do so right away. The next issue should go out somewhere around after mid-May –probably by May 22nd. Lucy wanted to know if Pastor Carroll was getting the mailing list information she is sending and if he were having any problems with it. He said it was fine.

Other Business: Doug said that both men’s and women’s golf shirts would be available at the convention in July. There may be baseball caps available also.

Phil reported that there are about 27-28 registrations on hand for the annual meeting. During May, Doug will contact Lay Directors of each secretariat to make sure they have named Lay Delegate(s) and a Spiritual Director delegate for the meeting. Doug reported that he has contacted all speakers and committee chairs except for Wayne Ford who has not yet returned any of his calls. Four rollo revision books are now ready for printing and distribution at the annual meeting.

Doug reported that, as of now, no secretariats have volunteered to host the meeting in 2002. Phil suggested that some secretariats be approached. Doug also reported that Leona has been working on the nominations and has agreement from some persons to have their names placed in nomination. Doug will call her.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Dow.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Hightower, Secretary

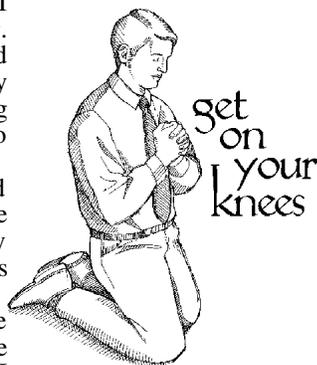
What Palanca Means to Me

I didn’t really think I was going to enjoy the weekend when I first heard about it. In fact, I tried every excuse I could to get out of going. But due to the persistence of my Pastor, I found something I never knew before. I was greeted by members of the Palanca team. And the outpouring of love was overwhelming. I’ve never felt so much caring and love before in my life.

It gave me a really warm feeling when I read the letters. And to know that there were people who were willing to take time to pray for my needs, really touched my heart. And that feeling is still with me today.

I’m truly thankful for the Brothers in Blue (Iowa prison Via de Cristo), and pray that they are able to continue to put them on in the prisons. I know it meant a lot to me and I’m sure it did to all the guys who were able to go.

Peace, Jeffery Swearingen
Sioux City, Iowa



What a Blessing!

I attended my first “Brothers in Blue,” a.k.a. Prison Via de Cristo, last May. I was introduced to the term “palanca.” It was explained that palanca is prayer, the prayers of people from all over for those of us attending the weekend. When I heard this, and it sank in, I was surprised, at first, to hear that people were sacrificing their time, daily routines, sleep, time from work, family and friends for the purpose of interceding on our behalf. I was touched deeply to know that people I’ve never known, nor will ever know, were approaching God with the sole purpose of sending the Holy Spirit to fill us.

The sacrificial love for me, of those unknown to me, was an overwhelming blessing in itself. The joy I received in knowing this, the love I felt, the spirit I received, only came from the many, many sacrifices and prayers on my behalf.

I’ve been told the greatest honor in serving our Lord is the privilege of approaching him on behalf of others. I can’t wait for my turn.

Glenn Wooten
Fort Dodge Correctional Facility
Fort Dodge, Iowa

Ultreya!

*Note: the following is the latest information this editor has of the Ultreyas around the country. The Ultreya that meets at the same time and place and on the same day of the month, has a distinct advantage over the Ultreya that moves from place to place and has a new time and date for each meeting. The ultreyas that some movements announce in their newsletters usually occur before the next edition of Conexiones can come out, and therefore cannot be listed in timely fashion. My goal is to list every Via de Cristo Ultreya, and include other movements, too. If your Ultreya group is not listed here, **please**, let me know.*

ARIZONA

Arizona Lutheran Cursillo

Held monthly at various locations and times.
 July 14, 2000 — Concordia, 4901 W. Indian School Rd, Phoenix.
 August 12, 2000 — American, Prescott.
 September 15, 2000 — Gloria Dei, Paradise Valley.
 November 11, 2000 — Potluck reunion.
 December 8, 2000 — Abiding Savior, Tempe.
 January 19, 2001 — Peace Lutheran, Peoria.
 February 17, 2001 — Spirit of Joy, Mesa.
 March 24, 2001 — TBA
 April 21, 2001 — Shepherd of the Hills, Fountain Hills.

Southern Arizona Lutheran Cursillo

Held monthly at various locations and times.
 December 2, 2000 — Reunion Potluck, Family Life Center

CALIFORNIA

Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California:

Locations vary, write/call Tom Lambert, 807 Lime Street, Brea, CA 92621, (714)255-0894(H), (310)695-2449(O)
 August 27, 2000 — 2pm, Ten Year Reunion, Trinity, Norwalk.
Via de Cristo of Southern California and the Central Valley:
 April 30, 2000, Grand Ultreya - 2pm social time; 2:30pm service at Community Church of Life, 7220 Rosedale Hwy, Bakersfield, California.

COLORADO

Colorado Via de Cristo

None reported

FLORIDA

Gold Coast

None announced for this issue

Heart of Florida

Monthly at various times and places.
 July 15, 2000, 7pm at Zion Lutheran, Peoria.
 September 16, 2000 7pm at Bethel Lutheran, Bartonville.
 November 11, 2000, 5pm at Faith Lutheran, Washington.

Indian River

Monthly at various times and places.

Lighthouse

First Fridays. 6:30pm pot luck supper. First United Methodist Church in Hollister Hall at 310 Douglas Street, New Smyrna Beach.

Sonbeam

Monthly at various times and places

Sonshine North Via de Cristo

Monthly at various times and places

Sonshine of South Florida

Monthly at various times and places.

GEORGIA

Atlanta Lutheran VdC Movement:
 None announced for this issue

ILLINOIS/IOWA

Living Water Ultreya,

August 5, Faith Lutheran, Ottawa, IL.

ILLINOIS

Heart of Illinois

July 15 7pm, Zion Lutheran, Peoria
 September 16, 7pm, Arcadia Presbyterian, Peoria
 November 11, 5pm, Reunion, Potluck, Ultreya

INDIANA

Held in odd months on Sundays at 3:30pm. Place to be announced.
 July 9 — Pitch-In Dinner, Ultreya at St. John's Lutheran Church, Dubois & St. Meinrad

IOWA

Council Bluffs Ultraya: 2nd Sunday, 7pm, Salem United Methodist Church.

Floyd Valley Ultreya, Sheldon United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 506 8th Street, Sheldon, Iowa, 3rd Tuesdays, registration 7:15pm, begin at 7:30pm.

Humboldt: 3rd Sunday (except July & August), 7pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Lake Area Ultreya, Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, 7:30pm, 3rd Mondays (except June & July)

Mason City/Clear Lake Ultreya, alternating between Zion Lutheran, Clear Lake and Trinity Lutheran and Our Savior's Lutheran, Mason City, 4:00pm each 3rd Sundays.

Nevada Ultreya, Memorial Lutheran, Nevada, 2nd Thursdays, 7:30pm.

Northwood Ultreya, First Lutheran Church Fire-side Room, 4:00pm, 3rd Sundays (except May, July & December).

Rockwell-Lytton Ultreya: 3rd Sundays 4pm, rotating through Rockwell City United Methodist, Presbyterian, and St. Paul Lutheran Churches.

Sioux City Ultreya, First Lutheran Church, 3939 Cheyenne Boulevard, 2nd Thursdays (except July and August), 7:00pm.

Storm Lake, 2nd Sundays, 5pm at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Storm Lake. Contact Jolene Manzey, 312 West 6th Street, Storm Lake, IA 50588.

MARYLAND

Vineyard — Monthly at various places and times

MICHIGAN

Central Michigan Ultreya

Monthly at various times and places.

TriCities - 2nd Friday

Upper Peninsula - 3rd Saturdays

PortHuron/St.Clair - 2nd Fridays

Good News! Via de Cristo Ultreyas

August 6, 2000 — 3-6pm, Potluck, St. Paul, Dearborn, MI

August 11, 2000 — 7-9:30pm, Grace in Howell, MI, Kathy Boyes, 517-223-9527.

September 15, 2000 — 7-9pm, Redeemer Lutheran, Owosso, MI. Contact Arlon Humphrey (517)723-6639

MINNESOTA MOVEMENT

The Luther Seminary VdC Community:

Quarterly Ultreyas scheduled on the succeeding months for Cursillistas, open worship for all. Contact Sandra Marotz, 612-646-4995, or Pastor Lou Flessner, 612-641-3422, or write Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, 2841 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

The Carver County Community:

Serves Excelsior, Chanhassen, Chaska, Waconia and surrounding areas. Contact Tom Heath, 113 Bade Lane, Chaska, MN 55318, 612-448-4638.

The Arrowhead Ultreya Community:

Serves the Northern Minnesota area. Contact Norma E. Swanbum, 1807 East 3rd Street, Apt.8, Duluth, MN 55812, 218-724-4786.

Singles Ultreyas

Each month the Singles Cursillo Community of Minnesota hosts an ultreya that is open to all Christians unmarried or married. They are also open to people who have not yet attended a Cursillo weekend. They gather on the second Saturday of the month at 5:30pm for Eucharist, potluck dinner, witness talk, fellowship and renewal. Bring food to share, cross, song book, nametags, musical instruments. Questions can be answered by the contact person at each location.

Post-Weekend Ultreyas (same sites as weekends)

August 6, 2000 at Peace, New London, MN
 September 10, 2000 at Hosanna!, Lakeville, MN
 October 29, 2000 at Redeemer, Fridley, MN
 November 5, 2000 at Zion, Grand Rapids, MN
 December 3, 2000 at Augustana, Minneapolis, MN

NORTH CAROLINA

Eastern North Carolina - Monthly

Fourth Friday, 7:00pm, St. Matthew's, ELC. Beach Group Monthly Fourth Friday Faith Fun, Food, Festivity, all Cursillistas welcome! Call Shirley McNeice at 910-686-4764 for details!

First Saturday, 6-8pm, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Brooks and Park, Raleigh. Potluck dinner! Bring something to share. Singing after the meal.

Piedmont - 2nd Saturdays 6:30pm

Contact Roger Setzer at (336) 227-8390, or e-mail at rdsetzer@nindspring.com.

Beach Group - 4th Fridays, 7pm.

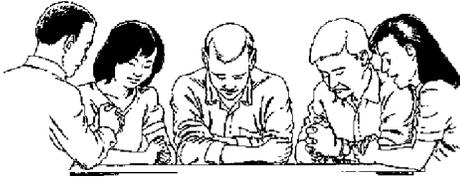
Contact Melinda Hales at (910) 791-8765.

Triangle - Varies each month, normally 3rd Saturdays

For additional information, contact Rosie Carte or Jackie Johnson.

Western North Carolina - Monthly

June 4, 2000, 3-5pm at Christ the King, Charlotte, NC.



Ultreyas, continued

OHIO

Cincinnati - Monthly - contact Fred Schneider, 729-0945

Columbus - Monthly - Lutheran-Episcopal 4th Fridays, 7:30pm, in January, meet at Grace Lutheran, 100 East Schrock, Westerville. Contact Dick Logan at 965-9420 or Donna Gough at 899-1210.

Dayton Area - Monthly Third Tuesday, 7:30pm. For details, call Bob & Mary Ann Sauer at 513/294-3940, or Email: MASAUER@aol.com.

Kent - Call for dates and time Contact Pastor Doug Fidler (330) 673-5445.

Marysville Area - Monthly Third Sunday at First English Lutheran, 687 London Avenue, Marysville. Call Judy Hurl 513/642-4621 or Jeanne Haynes, 513/642-4701.

Newark/Heath - Monthly 4th Sunday, 7:00pm. St. John's Lutheran Church, Linnville Road, Newark. Contact Don and Pam Paynter, 614-323-0207.

Parma Heights - Monthly Second Sundays, 4-8pm, contact Fred Schuller (440)845-5621.

Stow - Quarterly Contact Gracis Luoma (330) 686-8807.

Western Lake County Periodic joint Lutheran-Episcopal Ultreya. Hook up through George Cyphers, 216-951-2906.

Western Reserve - Monthly Second Saturday Epworth United Methodist Church, call Martha Mallen (216) 257-0254.

Urbana Area - Monthly First Friday 6:30pm at Church of the Epiphany, corner Scioto and Kenton, Urbana. Joint ultreya with Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Methodist and now Lutheran! Contact Dick or Marv Swan, 513/484-3189.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh:
Announced in newsletter

SOUTH CAROLINA

Up State Ultreya - place and time TBA
Midlands Ultreya - place and time TBA
Low Country Ultreya - place and time TBA

TEXAS

North Texas Lutheran Cursillo Ultreya are held at various times and places.

VIRGINIA

Rainbow Via de Cristo, Contact Bill Carey: 703/620-6377.

2nd Fridays, Rainbow Ultreya at Holy Cross Lutheran, Herndon, VA. Contact Bill Sproat at 703/754-2323.

3rd Fridays, Western Maryland Ultreya, rotates different churches, contact Craig Wasilius at 301/797-3853

1st Mondays (except holidays), Southern Maryland Ultreya, rotates different churches, contact Annie Cave at 301/297-8561

WISCONSIN

None announced for this issue

TEC = Teen Ministry

September 2000 - North Carolina: **Western North Carolina Hand-in-Hand TEC #24**: September 2-3, 2000. Send palanca to: Susan Creech, 5624 Cherrycrest Lane, Charlotte, NC 28217.



Prison Ministry

August 2000 - Florida: **Gold Coast Area Kairos**, Eckard Youth Facility, Torch #1: August 4-6, 2000. Send palanca to: Gold Coast Area Kairos, PO Box 30343, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420-0343.

August 2000 - Florida: **Gold Coast Area Kairos**, Okeechobee Correctional Institution (Spanish), Kairos #10: August 24-27, 2000. Send palanca to: Gold Coast Area Kairos, PO Box 30343, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420-0343.

September 2000 - Florida: **Gold Coast Area Kairos**, Martin Correctional Institution, Kairos #12: September 7-10, 2000. Send palanca to: Gold Coast Area Kairos, PO Box 30343, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420-0343.

September 2000 - Iowa: **Iowa Brothers in Blue Prison Ministry**, Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility, September 21-24, 2000. Send palanca to: Brothers in Blue Palanca, c/oMPCF, Highway 218 South, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641.

October 2000 - Florida: **Gold Coast Area Kairos**, Glades Correctional Institution, Kairos #32: October 12-15, 2000. Send palanca to: Gold Coast Area Kairos, PO Box 30343, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420-0343.

October 2000 - Iowa: **Iowa Brothers in Blue Prison Ministry**, Fort Dodge Correctional Facility Rockwell City, October 19-22, 2000. Send palanca to: Brothers in Blue Palanca, c/oCODR, PO Box 834, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.

October 2000 - Florida: **Gold Coast Area Kairos**, Indian River Correctional Institution, Torch #10: October 20-22, 2000. Send palanca to: Gold Coast Area Kairos, PO Box 30343, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420-0343.

October 2000 - Ohio: **Ohio Kairos Ministry**, Marion Correctional Institution for Men: October 28-31, 2000. Send palanca to: Mary Ellen Atwood, 725 Ridgecrest Road, Akron, OH 44303-1344.



November 2000 - Florida: **Gold Coast Area Kairos**, Pkeechobee Correctional Institution, Kairos #11: November 2-5, 2000. Send palanca to: Gold Coast Area Kairos, PO Box 30343, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420-0343.

November 2000 - Iowa: **Iowa Brothers in Blue Prison Ministry**, North Central Correctional Facility Rockwell City, November 16-19, 2000. Send palanca to: Brothers in Blue Palanca, c/oNCCF, PO Box 313, Rockwell City, IA 50579

November 2000 - Ohio: **Ohio Kairos Ministry**, Ohio Reformatory for Women, Marysville: November 11-14, 2000. Send palanca to: Mary Ellen Atwood, 725 Ridgecrest Road, Akron, OH 44303-1344.

December 2000 - Florida: **Gold Coast Area Kairos**, South Bay Correctional Institution, Kairos #6: December 7-10, 2000. Send palanca to: Gold Coast Area Kairos, PO Box 30343, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420-0343.

December 2000 - Iowa: **Iowa Brothers in Blue Prison Ministry**, Newton Correctional Facility Newton, December 7-10, 2000. Send palanca to: Brothers in Blue Palanca, c/oNCF, Newton, IA 50208.

Palanca!

FOR FUTURE WEEKENDS

All pending weekends for six months from publication will be printed in each Conexiones.

- July 2000 - Michigan: **Good News! Via de Cristo**, Hope Lutheran, Farmington Hills, MI, Men's Summer #1: July 12-15; Women's Summer #1: July 19-22, 2000. Send palanca to: Buddy and Debbie Grazier, 1180 South Durand Road, Lennon, MI 48449.
- July 2000 - California: **Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California**, St. Joseph's Retreat Center, Men's #68: July 6-9; Women's #69: July 13-16, 2000. Send palanca to: Wayne Beilman, 6708 San Haroldo Way, Buena Park, CA 90620.
- July 2000 - Florida: **Sonshine Via de Cristo of South Florida**, Women's: July 20-23, 2000. Send palanca to: Tony and Debbie Basone, 9129D SW 20th Place, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324.
- July/August 2000 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-North**, Peace, New London, Men's #353: July 27-30; Women's #354: August 3-6, 2000. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.
- August 2000 - Texas: **North Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo #48 (Coed)**, Bishop Mason Retreat and Conference Center, Grapevine, Texas, August 3-6, 2000. Send palanca to: Fran and Sonny Auld, 1806 Erwin Place, McKinney, TX 75069.
- August 2000 - California: **Via de Cristo of Southern California & The Central Valley**, Coed Weekend: (tentative) August 10-13, 2000. Send palanca to: Roxanne [REDACTED]
- August 2000 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-Metro**, Hosanna!, 9600 163rd Street, Lakeville, Men's #355: August 10-13; Women's #356: August 17-20, 2000. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.
- September 2000 - Maryland: **Vineyard Via de Cristo**, Frederick County 4H Camp, Women's #6: September 14-17, 2000. Mail palanca to: Frances Ecton, PO Box 452, Funkstown, MD 21734-0452.
- September 2000 - Florida: **Sonshine Via de Cristo of South Florida**, Men's: September 21-24, 2000. Send palanca to: Tony and Debbie Basone, 9129D SW 20th Place, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324.
- September 2000 - Maryland: **Vineyard Via de Cristo**, Camp West-Mar, Men's #6: September 21-24, 2000. Mail palanca to: Frances Ecton, PO Box 452, Funkstown, MD 21734-0452.
- September/October 2000 - North Carolina: **Western North Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Men's #47: September 14-17; Women's #47: September 28 - October 1, 2000. Send palanca to: Deborah Young, 3450 Patterson Road, China Grove, NC 28023.
- September/October 2000 - Michigan: **Lutheran Via de Cristo of Central Michigan**, Men's #53: September 28-October 1; Women's #53: October 5-8, 2000. Send Palanca to: LVCCM Palanca, Ann Kazanowski, PO Box 408, Midland, MI 48640.
- September/October 2000 - South Carolina: **South Carolina Via de Cristo**, Men's: September 28-October 1; Women's: October 12-15 2000. Send palanca to: Bill Fields, 1209 Hidden Lakes Drive, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464.
- October 2000 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-Metro**, Redecmer, 61 Mississippi Way, Fridley, Men's #357: October 5-8; Women's #358: October 12-15, 2000. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.
- October 2000 - Virginia: **Rainbow Via de Cristo Walk of Faith**, Northern VA Baptist Center, Gainesville, VA - Women's #40: October 12-15; Men's #38: October 26-29, 2000. Mail palanca to: Cis Smail, PO Box 2724, La Plata, MD 20646.
- October 2000 - South Dakota: **South Dakota Via de Cristo**, Men's: October 5-8; Women's: October 12-15, 2000. Send palanca to: Ardana Bruns, 621 NW 8th Street, Madison, SD 57042.
- October 2000 - Florida: **Lighthouse Via de Cristo**, Men's: October 5-8; Women's: October 12-15, 2000. Send palanca to: Michelle Dannemiller, 1001 Magnolia Street, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168.
- October 2000 - Florida: **Sonshine North Via de Cristo**, Men's #38: October 5-8; Women's #38: October 12-15, 2000. Send palanca to: Marsha Woloshin, 1931 Highland Drive, Fernandina, FL 32034.
- October 2000 - Arkansas-Oklahoma: **A-OK Via de Cristo**, Coed Weekend #2: October 12-15, 2000. Send palanca to: Cheryl Bothwell, 1025 Timber Top Drive, Rogers, AR 72756.
- October 2000 - Michigan: **Good News! Via de Cristo**, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Ottawa Lake, Men's #27: October 12-15; Women's #27: October 19-22, 2000. Send palanca to: Buddy and Debbie Grazier, 1180 South Durand Road, Lennon, MI 48449.
- October 2000 - North Carolina: **Western North Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Mixed #15: October 12-15, 2000. Send palanca to: Deborah Young, 3450 Patterson Road, China Grove, NC 28023.
- October 2000 - Georgia: **Atlanta Via de Cristo**, Men's #48: October 12-15; Women's #46: October 19-22, 2000. Send palanca to: Jim and Kathy Boucher, 5200 Downs Way, Norcross, GA 30093-2450.
- October 2000 - California: **Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California**, St. Joseph's Retreat Center, Men's #70: October 12-15; Women's #71: October 19-22, 2000. Send palanca to: Wayne Beilman, 6708 San Haroldo Way, Buena Park, CA 90620.
- October 2000 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-North**, Our Saviour's, Cloquet, Men's #359: October 12-15; Women's #360: October 19-22, 2000. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.
- October 2000 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois Vis de Cristo**, East Bay Camp, Bloomington, Men's #5: October 12-15; Women's #6: October 19-22, 2000. Send palanca to: Ron Millard, 1415 Flossmor, Washington, IL 61571.
- October 2000 - Tennessee: **Tennessee Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Mixed #5: October 12-15, 2000. Send palanca to: Julie Glibbery, 7724 Sevilla Road, Powell, WY 37849.
- October 2000 - Florida: **Heart of Florida Via de Cristo**, Men's: October 12-15; Women's: October 19-22, 2000. Send Palanca to: Suzzanne and Bill Cattell, 1110 Deer Run, Winter Springs, FL 32708.
- October 2000 - Indiana: **Indiana Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Men's #34: October 12-15; Women's #35: October 19-22, 2000. Send palanca to: Perry Powers, 621 North Main Street, Monticello, IN 47960.
- October/November 2000 - Arizona: **Southern Arizona Lutheran Cursillo**, Tanque Verde Lutheran Church, Tucson, Men's #9: October 19-22; Women's #10: November 2-5, 2000. Send palanca to: Jim P. Dunfee, 7355 Eastview Drive, Tucson, AZ 85710.
- October/November 2000 - Ohio: **Via de Cristo of Ohio (Central)**, Holy Cross Catholic Cursillo Center, Columbus, Men's #43: October 5-8; Women's #41: November 2-5, 2000. Send palanca to: Jeff Albrektsen, 2793 Galewood Street, Kettering, OH 45420.
- October/November 2000 - Arizona: **Arizona Lutheran Cursillo Movement**, Men's #80: October 19-22; Women's #81: November 2-5, 2000. Send palanca to: LaWave Speck, 902 West Roma Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85013-2824.
- November 2000 - California: **Via de Cristo of Southern California & The Central Valley**, Bethelin the Hills, Coed Weekend: November 2-5, 2000. Send palanca to: Roxanne [REDACTED]
- November 2000 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-Metro**, Augustana, 704 11th Avenue South, Men's #361: November 2-5; Women's #362: November 9-12, 2000. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.
- November 2000 - Illinois/Iowa: **Living Water Via de Cristo**, Men's #22: November 2-5; Women's #22: November 9-12, 2000. Send palanca to: Paul and Carla Roome, 1021 14th Avenue A, Orion, IL 61273.
- November 2000 - Colorado: **Colorado Via de Cristo**, Men's #6: November 2-5; Women's #6: November 9-12, 2000. Send palanca to: Sally Carnes, 2453 Mapleton Circle, Longmont, CO 80503.
- November 2000 - Florida: **Sonbeam Via de Cristo**, Rotary's Camp Florida, Men's #36: November 9-12; Women's #36: November 16-19, 2000. Send palanca to: Dave McConnell, PO Box 8874, Madera Beach, FL 33738-8874.
- November 2000 - Nebraska: **Nebraska Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Carol Joy Holling Camp, 27416 Ranch Road, Ashland, Men's: November 9-12; Women's: November 16-19, 2000. Send palanca to: Joe & Irene Jones, Palanca Chairman, 1418 H Street, PO Box 407, Auburn, NE 68305-1953.
- November 2000 - Texas: **North Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo #49 (Coed)**, Bishop Mason Retreat and Conference Center, Grapevine, Texas, November 16-19, 2000. Send palanca to: Fran and Sonny Auld, 1806 Erwin Place, McKinney, TX 75069.
- November 2000 - Florida: **Sonshine Via de Cristo of South Florida**, Women's #83: November 16-19, 2000. Send palanca to: Tony and Debbie Basone, 9129D SW 20th Place, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324.
- November 2000 - Maryland: **Vineyard Via de Cristo**, Frederick County 4H Camp, Co-ed #1: November 16-19 2000. Mail palanca to: Frances Ecton, PO Box 452, Funkstown, MD 21734-0452.

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Improving Communication -

Flow of Info

At the 1996 NLS Annual Meeting, it was suggested that more articles and information be shared both from local secretariat newsletters in Conexiones, and also articles from Conexiones reprinted in local secretariat newsletters.

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This communication can be done two ways, too, and you editors could provide the articles via e-mail to the editor of Conexiones, Carroll Lang, at cdlng@aol.com and he would be very grateful.

— Carroll Lang, Editor

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Oran Gough (Ohio),
NLS Website Mgr.

Help Wanted

Our Website artist and designer, Ed Hillers, has to devote more time to his music ministries and to his family due to health difficulties. We have been richly blessed by his service in the initial design of the NLS Web presence and maintenance over the past five years. Now we need volunteers with skills in this new medium to join the officers and webmaster, Oran Gough, in developing our service to become an even more effective tool for our movement. If you have the skills and would like to become part of our web team, email Oran Gough at ogough@aol.com and let him know how you feel you can contribute. We are open to creative change and we want to extensively extend the resources available through the site.



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