



Connecting National and Local Secretariats

Volume 23
Number 2
April 2005

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

NLS 2005 Annual Meeting July 28 — 31, 2005 in Emmittsburg, Maryland

CASTING OUR NETS

Spring has sprung here in the mid east. There are signs of new life all around us, green grass, trees budding, flowers blooming. Just like we were reminded on Easter morning of the new life we have in the Resurrected Christ. Praise God for His son and His creation.

Another sign of spring here is the opening of fishing season in the area streams and lakes. Our plans for your fishing trip with us in July are rolling right along just like the hills of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Virginias. The tackle box is stocked with lots of things to do to lure you to the Rainbow and Vineyard communities.

We encourage you to include a visit to some of the sites and attractions in our area when making your plans. Mount St. Mary's campus is located in Emmittsburg, Md., within a few hours drive of the Atlantic Ocean, Baltimore, Washington D.C., Gettysburg and Hershey Pa., some of the main bait for those looking to get a bite of our historic heritage.

Again a reminder to those flying that the main airports (BWI & Dulles) are at least an hour from the campus. However, our boats, (I mean vans) will be trolling the area waiting for your arrival.

Please note our housing does not have elevators so if you need to be on the first floor, check special accommodations and specify this on your registration form. Make your plans, send in your registrations, come and "Cast Your Nets". See what you "pull in" as we all grow in our mission to bring the world to know Christ.

God's Peace and Blessings to All.

Rainbow and Vineyard
Host Committee
Diane Foor and
Cathy Glumac
Co-Chairs



Don't Miss the Action!

Has YOUR secretariat sent an updated roster to the NLS Database Manager? If your secretariat has held an election within the last six months, then it's probably time to send an updated list if you haven't already done so.

An email notice is sent to everyone who is in our database if an email address is available. If someone is currently listed as a member of a state secretariat but has no email, that person will be mailed a hard copy.

NLS wants to keep in touch, and you can help by making sure that your local secretariat list is being kept current. Send the data by email to Bhigh922@aol or by regular mail to Lucy Hightower, 404 Church St., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464. Her telephone number is 843-884-4276 if you have any questions. **Please be sure to include the following information: First and last name, secretariat position, address, home telephone, and email address if available.** This information will not be used for any other purpose other than NLS business; it will not be distributed to anyone else. Our website, www.viadecristo.org, contains information about Lay Directors, Spiritual Directors, and Palanca chairs and can be removed upon request.



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

E-Mail Notification

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: & State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

Name of Secretariate _____

Position on Secretariat: _____

E-Mail Address: _____@_____

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

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Volume 23
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Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

CONEXIONES is the official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, a national association of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movement, representing over 71,500 who have participated in 37 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 Larry Witham as 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, Jerry Lemcke, 6139 Sunnyvale Drive, Orlando, FL 32822; 407-277-2606.

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.

To “The Mount”!

Hello Via de Cristo community! The time has come to consider this year’s annual meeting into your summer plans. We are excited about meeting in Emmittsburg, Maryland! The surrounding area is full of history and wonderful places to visit. Learn more about our facility by going to www.msmary.edu. The speakers are in place, a tentative schedule arranged and Mount St. Mary’s is ready for our arrival. Won’t you consider joining us?

The format will be a little different. We have tried to create an answer to the responses from the evaluations and we think you will enjoy this meeting!

We will have a Keynote, two forums and five, yes five seminars on topics that seem to be on many Secretariats’ agendas. Please take extra care with your reservation this year. The seminars are to be rated and divided up. Each person will be able to attend at least 3 of the 5 seminars. Send more than one from your Secretariat and your Secretariat will be able to see and or hear all five!!

The speakers and seminars are as follows:

- Keynote:** Cast Your Nets based on Luke 5:4-11: **Bishop Leonard Bolick**
- Forum #1:** Cast Your Nets – Multiply Don’t Divide: **Scott Anderson**
- Forum #2:** 4th Day; Fishing 101 by James & John: **Randy Mullin & Doug Burrows**
- Seminar #1:** 10 Ways to Kill A Secretariat: **Steve Gelida**
- Seminar #2:** Palanca; More Than a Mint on Your Pillow: **Rose Lundquist**
- Seminar #3:** What Is So Apostolic About Action – The Original 12 Step Program: **Derek Brown**
- Seminar #4:** NLS Resources For The Local Secretariat: **Chuck Simmons**
- Visitors Choice Seminar:** 501(C)(3) For Dummies: **Diane Purcell** (How to set up your non-profit secretariat)

Please note that there are (4) four major airports and one (1) regional airport that you can choose from to get to the Annual Meeting in July. HOWEVER, we need to know which airport and when you will be arriving. Without this information, you may need a cab. The host committee’s preferred airports are **Hagerstown, Harrisburg and BWI**. The last Conexiones gave some specifics of the distance and time it will take to get from the airport to “the Mount”. Please take this into consideration when booking flights, especially if you plan on attending the orientation, which begins at 11:00 am on Thursday. Those traveling a distance may need to consider coming a day earlier.

To assist you in your flight planning here are airports (with the codes as seen on the map on page one) and their web site addresses:

Hagerstown Regional Airport - HGR
[Http://www.flyhagerstown.com](http://www.flyhagerstown.com)

Harrisburg International Airport - MDT
[Http://www.flyhia.com](http://www.flyhia.com)

Baltimore Washington International Airport - BWI
[Http://www.bwiairport.com](http://www.bwiairport.com)

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport - DCA
[Http://www.metwashairports.com/national/index.htm](http://www.metwashairports.com/national/index.htm)

Washington Dulles International Airport - IAD
[Http://www.metwashairports.com/Dulles](http://www.metwashairports.com/Dulles)

We will begin our next annual meeting with an orientation, open to everyone, at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 28th. Lunch begins at 12 noon and our opening worship will be held at 1:00 p.m. Don’t miss a minute! **A reminder that our housing does not have elevators so if you need to be on the first floor, check special accommodations and specify this on your registration form.**

We are looking forward to seeing **you** at the Mount!!

God Bless,
 Tracy Ziemke,
 NLS VP Administration



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

"THE ANSWER IS BLOWIN' IN THE WIND"

After all these years, and I don't recall how many weekends I've been a part of, I still find myself trying to understand the mystery of what happens in these three days. And it's not just about the attendees. Any of us who has ever served on a team can testify that the very act of serving rivals that of attending the first time.

So what is it? What's the secret? The stress on God's unconditional love and grace? Yes, that's part of it. But frankly, as wondrous as it is, I've been hearing about that all my life, as have many of you. Is it being surrounded for 72 hours by a Christian community whose sole purpose is to make God's love visible? Yes, that's pretty powerful too. Is it the power of prayer (of palanca) that encompasses and permeates every moment of our time together? There's no denying this essential element in what we do.

All of these and more are components of an encounter with God that IS mysterious and unique for each of us. But I sense there is something common to all of our experiences. It has to do with a new and more intimate view of God. When we were children, in order to comprehend God in relation to ourselves, we were drawn to the image of ONE who was "out there" - all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful...the God of Heaven. It's an awesome realization, and it is part of who God is - the Scriptures are full of such images. But to see God that way is only part of the Biblical witness. It's hard to get close to that kind of a God. Not that we can't have faith and trust, purpose for living, and a hope for the future. But a God who is "out there" is often hard to connect with what's happening in the world, or my life, or my work, or my marriage. In fact, that childhood image is so strong that many of us may live our whole lives feeling a distance from God, even as active committed Christians.

I believe what happens on a Via de Cristo weekend is that through the working of the Spirit of God we are brought to a new level of intimacy with a God who is as near as the very air we breathe. Bob Dylan wasn't far off 35 or 40 years ago when he sang, "The Answer is Blowin' in the Wind". Unknowingly he was quoting Jesus who told Nicodemus, "*The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit*".

The answer does lie in the blowing of the wind of God...the Spirit of God. And for a few days God prepares a safe environment where through thought, witness, and worship, through laughter, tears and music, we are encountered by One who though surely different from us, is as near as our own hearts, as vital as the first breath we took in our lives. The "Heavenly Father to whom we pray is also "Abba" - Daddy. Jesus, who died for us, is not only Son of God and Savior, but Brother. The Spirit of God that brought life to the creation, is also a daily companion to encourage,

nurture, and comfort us, in the very midst of our nutty lives.

Hooray! The God of outer space, of the universe (out there) is also the God of inner space. Renew every day this wonderful, intimate relationship that the Lord has with you.

With much thanks to Abba,
Joe Nilsen
NLS Spiritual Director



NLS OUTREACH NEWS

Well, the annual meeting will be upon us soon; even quicker than we realize. Hope to see you there. We have a series of great seminars, forums, small group discussions, and MUCH more. You will truly enjoy the time there.

This year it appears we will have two new movements to welcome to our growing Via de Cristo family. As reported in the last issue of Conexiones, Yellowstone Via de Cristo will finally be joining the NLS. Also, Heart of America Via de Cristo from Kansas will become a new member secretariat. The first (co-ed) weekend in Kansas (Ottawa area, about 60 miles or so southwest of Kansas City off Interstate 35) is being held April 21-24. Marlen Sterud of Tennessee will be the first rector for Heart of America. Many team members are coming from Tennessee to join those in Kansas. Help is also coming from Oklahoma and a few souls from Illinois. I must say that the organizers of this movement in Kansas have done a marvelous job in putting this secretariat together.

There are a few places where I have lost my original contacts for various reasons. In particular, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Alabama. Perhaps someone from those states in the future will feel God's call to move forward with organizing new movements there.

I will be meeting with the folks in Nashville in early May, and things look really promising for a new secretariat in that area. They will receive a lot of support from the other Tennessee movement. Some other recent places that have shown some interest in Via de Cristo for their locations are: the Jackson, Mississippi area, Africa, and the Bahamas. Another VdC secretariat in Florida is a future possibility, as is the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho/Spokane, WA. area.

Let's keep our growth moving, but take it slow and correctly. Those are two virtues I strive for, but fail at sometimes! But with God's help, and the help of all the existing secretariats through their prayers/palanca, we will continue to expand this wonderful lay ministry that has been responsible for changing the lives of many of us.

Peace be with you,
Ron Millard
VP of Outreach, NLS



National Lutheran Secretariat 2005 Annual Meeting

Thursday, July 28 through Sunday, July 31, 2005

Mount St. Mary's University in Emmittsburg, Maryland

Hosted by the Secretariats of Rainbow VdC of VA and Vineyard VdC of MD

“Casting Our Nets”

THURSDAY

11:00 am Orientation
 12:00 pm Lunch
 1:00 pm Opening Worship
 2:30 pm Business Meeting
 4:15 pm Keynote: Bishop Leonard Bolick
 6:00 pm Dinner
 7:00 pm Small Group Breakouts
 8:30 pm Vespers
 pm Hospitality to follow Chapel

FRIDAY

7:30 am Breakfast
 8:30 am Worship
 10:00 am Forum: Multiply Don't Divide
 11:00 am Business Meeting
 12:30 pm Lunch
 1:30 pm Seminars 1, 2, 3, & 4 (45 min w/ Q & A)
 Rooms to be assigned
 2:30 pm Repeat Seminars 1 – 4
 3:30 pm Committee Work, S.D. Dialog, LD dialog
 Hosting a National Meeting
*****Visitors Choice Seminar *****
 6:00 pm Dinner
 7:00 pm Small Group Breakouts
 8:15 pm Worship
 pm Hospitality to follow Chapel

SATURDAY

7:30 am Breakfast
 8:30 am Worship
 10:00 am Forum: 4 th day; Fishing 101 by James & John
 11:30 am Seminars 1 – 4 again
 12:30 pm Lunch
 1:30 pm Business Meeting
 3:30 pm Open Discussion
 4:45 pm New Movement and Host Committee meet with Board
 Small group breakouts (note the time change)
 6:00 pm Dinner
 8:00 pm Worship and Installation of officers
 pm Hospitality to follow Chapel

SUNDAY

7:30 am Breakfast
 8:30 am Worship





2005 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting

Thursday July 28 through Sunday July 31, 2005

Mount St. Mary's University, Emmittsburg, Maryland

Hosted by Rainbow and Vineyard Via de Cristo Secretariats

NLS MEETING AND LODGING REGISTRATION

Please read first:

*Use one form for each person attending. ***Payment** must accompany each registration.

***Refunds (less \$25.00 fee)** will only be considered if postmarked or e-mailed **before July 7**.

***Late fee** of \$25.00 will be assessed **after June 17, 2005**.

***Make checks payable to NLS 2005 Annual Meeting**.

Home Secretariat & Position Held _____

Name: _____ Name on Tag: _____

Address: _____ Male: _____ Female: _____ E-Mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

My home church is: _____

Please register me as: _____ Lay Delegate _____ Visitor _____ Clergy Delegate _____ Visiting Clergy
_____ NLS Board Member _____ Speaker

Have you attended a NLS Annual Meeting before? __ No __ Yes, Year _____ Position _____

____ Please check this, if you require any special accommodations, medical or necessary dietary needs.

Please specify:

Mode of Travel to the NLS Annual Meeting: _____ Auto _____ Air

____ Please check here if you will need to be picked up at an airport? The Transportation committee will contact you for time and airport.

NLS Registration Fees:

Payment and Fees include: Housing, Meals, NLS Annual Meeting materials from Thursday noon thru Sunday 11:00AM.

Registration for NLS meeting per person @ \$175.00 \$175.00

____ Roommate: _____ or _____ assign a roommate

____ Single room, limited space, additional \$35.00 _____

Late fee of \$25.00 after **June 17, 2005** _____

Make check payable to NLS 2005 Annual Meeting Total \$ _____

Please let us know what day you will be leaving the NLS Annual Meeting: __ Saturday PM or __ Sunday noon.

Please choose seminars that you wish to attend and rate 1 thru 5*(1 being your first choice)**

____ **Palanca:** More than a mint on your pillow.

____ **Top Ten Ways** to kill a Secretariat. (Secretariat Issues)

____ **Apostolic Action:** What's so Apostolic about Action? The other 12-step A.A. program.

____ **Fishing gear: Resources.** Shopping for Secretariat

____ **501 (c) (3) for Dummies:** How to set up Non-Profit Secretariat & Other Treasury Issues.

Complete this form and attach Your Payment then Mail to: **NLS 2005 Annual Meeting**
Bob & Fran Stoner, registrars
7953 Talhelm Rd.
Chambersburg, PA 17201-8536
E-Mail: bfstoner@pa.net
Phone: 717-597-0189

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

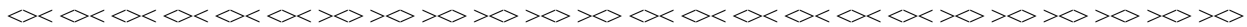
DeColores! Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Springtime in the Carolinas is such a beautiful time of the year. Seeing the grass turning green, the flowers blooming and the trees budding, our Creator's influence is so evident. We've all heard the saying to "take time and smell the flowers" and this week I was reminded of the beauty around me here in North Carolina.

Lois and I were on a bus tour of Charlotte and we stopped right next to a Dogwood tree in full bloom. As I admired the beauty of the tree, Lois caught my eye and later reminded me of the story of the Dogwood. That added to my enjoyment of having seen the beautiful tree. I reprint it for your enjoyment.

The Legend of the Dogwood Tree

Author Unknown



When Christ was on earth, the dogwood grew
to a towering size with a lovely hue.
It's branches were strong and interwoven
and for Christ's cross it's timbers were chosen.
Being distressed at the use of this wood
Christ made a promise which still holds good:



"NOT EVER AGAIN SHALL THE DOGWOOD GROW
TO BE LARGE ENOUGH FOR A TREE AND SO
SLENDER AND TWISTED IT SHALL ALWAYS BE
WITH CROSS~SHAPED BLOSSOMS FOR ALL TO SEE.
THE PETALS SHALL HAVE BLOODSTAINS MARKED IN BROWN
AND IN THE BLOSSOM'S CENTER A THORNY CROWN.
ALL WHO SEE IT WILL THINK OF ME,
NAILED TO THE CROSS FROM A DOGWOOD TREE.
PROTECTED AND CHERRISHED THIS TREE SHALL BE
A REFLECTION TO ALL OF MY AGONY."

Yes, that reflection added a special meaning to seeing the sun shine so brightly on that Dogwood tree this week. Take time my friends. Take time to enjoy all the beauty around you. Take time this day and smell the flowers. Remember the one who made them all. Remember our Savior who died on that tree for our sins, and then rose again so that we might have everlasting life. Thank you Oh Lord, for your precious gifts.

Our annual meeting at Mount St. Mary's University beginning July 28th will soon be here. It's now just three months away. I hope you plan to attend, and have filled out and mailed your registration form. Our hosts from Rainbow Via de Cristo and Vineyard Via de Cristo are busily preparing for us assuring a great time to be had by all.

We have an impressive list of speakers, planning some interesting, informative, and fun forums and seminars. Our Keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Leonard Bolick, Bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA. He's a great speaker, and a strong supporter of Via de Cristo. You don't want miss his presentation. We'll all be blessed by his sharing with us in Emmitsburg.

At last year's annual meeting, the delegates approved changes to our Constitution and Bylaws and they were sent out to all member secretariats for formal ratification. Do you know if your secretariat has signed the ratification form and returned it to the NLS secretary? It is important that this be done as soon as possible. Please check with the Lay Director of your secretariat and see if they have returned their form. This would help us to complete this most important project.

I look forward to seeing you at the Mount!

Peace and joy,
Larry Witham

NLS Distribution Center

Greetings from your newly established N.L.S. Distribution Center located in Midvale Utah, a suburb of Salt Lake City. Your Distribution Center is 20 minutes South of the center of Salt Lake City, 30 minutes West of ski resorts such as Alta, Snowbird, Brighton, and Deer Valley, 10 minutes North of the original Widow maker Motorcycle Hill Climb location, and 90 minutes East of Wendover Nevada where many local Utah people seem to end up on weekends.

I volunteered for this job last July and never realized how many legal loops I'd have to jump through to make this actually happen. I see this job as an opportunity to serve God, to meet some very nice people, and as a way to have fun and keep busy. During the daytime I work at KUTV, a CBS owned television station located in downtown SLC. I'm called a studio engineer and am asked to fix everything from studio cameras to door hinges. Life is always interesting.

In my other spare time I'm active at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church where I'm involved in prayer ministry, occasional teaching, call committee member, and liaison between the church and our local VDC community. I'm passing this last job off to a new person who will soon be learning more about weekender sponsorship than she expects.

I'd like to establish a list of email addresses of those in each VDC Secretariat who often are involved with ordering NLS supplies. Please send me an email stating your name, address, phone, email address, and anything else you would like to add. Send to; joab@aros.net

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,
John & Carol Bradford

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This summer we are going to be blessed, well, you will see. The environment God has prepared for us is incredible. But before we can enjoy the splendor of the campus, there are a few items each secretariat needs to do. It involves paperwork. Your paperwork is needed. It is something that keeps me busy until we get together in July. Only half of the secretariats have returned their 2004 survey forms. HELP, I need your completed forms now. Everyone knows the value placed on the information that is revealed in these surveys. Every day that you delay in sending me your survey, is another day I have to wait. Waiting creates long days for me. Waiting also creates rushing. Waiting also give way to mistakes. Waiting is such a waste of precious time. Please, don't make me wait any longer. No one likes to rush or make mistakes when putting together a project of this nature, I certainly don't.

And now, a few words about the signature page for the restated constitution and by-laws. This project has been with us for quite a few years. Many have contributed to the final

product that is before you. We all voted to accept it last summer. Now, all we need is to have each secretariat return the executed signature pages to me.

I love you all, and hope you enjoy all the season in your life and your relationships. God is so good. I don't like to miss anything He has for me, and you are one of them.

In His Service,
Su Kralj
NLS Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings brothers and sisters;

We just had our second NLS Board teleconference meeting last night and I am reminded of good stewardship. That is something we all need to think of on a regular basis and this method of meeting is a good example of good stewardship as travel is so expensive these days.

The figures posted in the last Conexiones remain pretty much the same although membership fees are beginning to come in now. I plan to send the usual reminder letters in March. Thank you to those secretariats that have already sent in their membership fees. I give a special thank you to Indian River VDC for the THITHE that was added to the annual fees.

As you all know, most of us, in this day and age, use a computer to search for information or purchase items and email to communicate with one another. The communication part is what I depend on very much. I check my email daily. I would like to ask the Lay Directors/ Convenor's /Presidents/ Chair couples/Lay Leaders and also the treasurers to put the email addresses of the people serving on the NLS board in their email address book. With filters for Spam and the like, something we would like to communicate to you might not ever reach you because it went into your junk mail or was filtered out entirely. Also, please keep us updated if you change your email address or when some one takes your place.

I am getting excited as the annual convention date gets closer and looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. The host committee is busy making this a special event "Just for YOU. Would you believe that it is only three months until we meet? WOW! Is time flying or am I getting older?"

God bless you all,
Jerry Lemcke



Palanca!!!

For Future weekends

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

- May 2005 - Maryland: **Vineyard VDC**, Men's #15 May 5-8, [Send palanca to:](#) Sara McCall PO Box 254 Smithsburg, MD 21783
- May 2005 - Arizona: **AZ Lutheran Cursillo**, Women's #104: May. 12-15, [Send palanca to:](#) Roy Heitkamp 10653 E Linder Circle Mesa, AZ 85212
- May 2005 - California: **VDC of Southern CA and the Central Valley**, May. 19-22, [Send palanca to:](#) Leslie Symm 1908 Village Oak Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93311
- May 2005 - Florida: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men's #47: May. 12-15, & Women's #47: May. 19-22, [Send palanca to:](#) Dottie Schwartz 287 Bonnylyn Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073
- May 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Single Men's #450, May. 19-22 & Single Women's #451 May. 26-29, [Send palanca to:](#) Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- June 2005 - California: **VDC of Southern CA and the Central Valley**, Coed June 2-5, [Send palanca to:](#) Leslie Symm 1908 Village Oak Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93311
- June 2005 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Coed's #20, [Send palanca to:](#) Amy Dempsey 3021 Mandalay Grove #5 Colorado Springs, CO 80917
- June 2005 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin VDC**, Coed June 22-26, [Send palanca to:](#) Stephanie Schubart 82 E 3rd St. Fond du Lac, WI 54935
- July 2005 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men's #6: July 13-17, & Women's #6: July 13-17, [Send palanca to:](#) Kathy Jurrus 10 1/2 Vineyard Dr. Rossford, OH 43460-1350
- July 2005 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois VDC**, Men #15: July 14-17, & Women's #16: July 21-24, [Send palanca to:](#) Natalie Arff 11021 Buckskin Ct. Peoria, IL 61615
- July 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #452, July 14-17, & Women's #453: July 21-24, [Send palanca to:](#) Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- July 2005 - Ohio: **VdC of Ohio**, Men's #56, July 14-17, & Women's #55: July 21-24, [Send palanca to:](#) Lori Hartman 7293 Phillipsburg Union Rd. Brookville, OH 45309
- July 2005 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC**, Men's #94: July 14-17, [Send palanca to:](#) Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317
- Aug. 2005 - Michigan: **Central Michigan VdC**, Men's #64, Aug. 4-7 & Women's #64, Aug. 11-14, [Send palanca to:](#) Charles W. Bash 1304 Brentwood Dr. Midland, MI 48640
- Aug. 2005 - Texas: **North Texas Lutheran VdC**, Coed #66: Aug. 4-7, [Send palanca to:](#) Lily Gholston 401 Campbell Lane Denton, TX 76209-4580
- Aug. 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #454, Aug. 18-21, & Women's #455: Aug. 25-28, [Send palanca to:](#)

- Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- Sept. 2005 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #53 Sept. 8-11, [Send palanca to:](#) Vicki McCombs P O Box 760 Rockwell, NC 28138
- Sept. 2005 - South Carolina: **South Carolina VdC**; Coed #6: Sept. 15-18, Women's #28: Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, [Send palanca to:](#) Keith Nichols 2267 Forest Lake Blvd. Charleston, SC 29414
- Sept. 2005 - IN/KY: **Indiana/Kentucky VdC**, Men's #52: Sept. 22-25, Women's #53: Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, [Send palanca to:](#) Rich Rager 589 Shorelane Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- Sept. 2005 - Maryland: **Vineyard VDC**, Men's #16 Sept. 22-25, [Send palanca to:](#) Sara McCall PO Box 254 Smithsburg, MD 21783
- Sept./Oct. 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #456, Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, & Women's #457: Oct. 6-9, [Send palanca to:](#) Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- Oct. 2005 - Georgia: **Atlanta VDC**, Men's #52: Oct. 6-9, Women's #50 Oct. 13-16, [Send palanca to:](#) John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 3015
- Oct. 2005 - AR/OK: **A-OK Lutheran Sec.**, Coed #12: Oct. 6-9, [Send palanca to:](#) Matt Milzarek 634 S. Poplar St. Sapulpa, OK 74066
- Oct. 2005 - VA: **Rainbow VDC**, Men's #47: Oct. 6-9, & Women's #50 Oct. 13-16, [Send palanca to:](#) Julia Shaw-Fuller 301 N Old Dominion Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132
- Oct. 2005 - California: **VDC of Southern CA and the Central Valley**, Oct. 13-16, [Send palanca to:](#) Leslie Symm 1908 Village Oak Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93311
- Oct. 2005 - Arizona: **AZ Lutheran Cursillo**, Men's #105: Oct. 13-16, & Women's #106 Oct. 27-30, [Send palanca to:](#) Roy Heitkamp 10653 E Linder Circle Mesa, AZ 85212
- Oct. 2005 - Georgia: **Atlanta VDC**, Women's #50: Oct. 13-16, [Send palanca to:](#) John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341
- Oct. 2005 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois VDC**, Men #16: Oct. 13-16, & Women's #17: Oct. 20-23, [Send palanca to:](#) Natalie Arff 11021 Buckskin Ct. Peoria, IL 61615
- Oct. 2005 - IN/KY: **Indiana/Kentucky VdC**, Men's #53: Oct. 13-16, & Women's #54: Oct. 20-23, [Send palanca to:](#) Rich Rager 589 Shorelane Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- Oct. 2005 - Maryland: **Vineyard VDC**, Men's #16 Oct. 13-16, [Send palanca to:](#) Sara McCall PO Box 254 Smithsburg, MD 21783
- Oct. 2005 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men's #37: Oct. 13-16, & Women's #37: Oct. 20-23, [Send palanca to:](#) Kathy Jurrus 10 1/2 Vineyard Dr. Rossford, OH 43460-1350
- Oct. 2005 - Florida: **Heart of Florida VDC** Men's #32: Oct. 13-16, Women's #32: Oct. 20-23, [Send palanca to:](#) Jan Fry % St John Lutheran Church, 1600 S. Orlando Ave Winter Park, FL 32789
- Oct. 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #458, Oct. 13-16, Women's #459: Oct. 20-23, [Send palanca to:](#) Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- Oct. 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #460, Oct. 13-16, Women's #461: Oct. 20-23, [Send palanca to:](#) Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- Oct. 2004 - Tennessee: **TN Lutheran VdC**, Mixed (coed) #15: Oct. 13-16, [Send palanca to:](#) Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 37931

2005 A Year of Faith and Overflow Praying should be the First thing we do not the Last ..

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
The Bible is filled with God's direction to pray and His commitment to respond to His children. The Book of Psalms is filled with prayers and thanksgiving for the Lord's responses. In other places the Bible tells us .. *"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."* ~ John 14:13-14 *"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."* ~ John 16:23-24 *"Pray without ceasing"* ~ 1 Thess. 5:17 *"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer"* ~ 1 Peter 3:12 *"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."* ~ Matt. 21:22 *"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."* ~ Mark 11:24 *"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."* ~ John 15:7

Billy Graham has said, **"Heaven is full of answers to prayers for which no one ever bothered to ask."**

Prayer is the tool, the lever, that will move the Lord to provide blessings. It is the first tool we should select and use in our relationship with Him. Prayer and sacrifices are true Palanca. We offer love letters, cards and items as visible expressions of the prayer and sacrifices. However, these items must be given only after being bathed in prayer to be some of the levers that the Lord uses to encourage and equip His servants to accomplish His works. We offer prayers and sacrifices because we trust and know our God will provide.

As the year progresses, send updates, if your Palanca Coordinator changes so we keep the NLS Website accurate. We also encourage you to visit the website for both Via de Cristo Weekends and Teen / Prison Weekends. Communicate with one another concerning the Weekends, offer Prayers and send the visible expressions of those prayers and sacrifices. Please send us any praise reports where the Power of Prayer has been demonstrated in your community. Through the conversations with our Heavenly Father, He will be faithful and bless us to be a blessing to others :o)

Blessings, YBIC and Ultraya!
Paul Sabatier-Smith <<<
NLS Palanca Coordinator

NLS Distribution Center

Dick Emery, Director Phone: (239) 590-8958
E-Mail: ricisa@aol.com

Annual Meeting Items Available

All the material that was available at the 2004 Annual Meeting and video tapes from the meeting are available from the Distribution Center. Order forms for all NLS materials can be found on the web page.



Conexiones Subscription

About 250 of you are choosing to obtain the Conexiones through mail delivery. The suggested annual donation is **\$6.00** and can be sent to the treasurer, address is found on page two. Please help us to be good stewards of these materials and we thank you in advance for your payment. Again if you would prefer to receive an email notification, just fill out the E-Mail Notification Request Form that can be found on the web.



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 service. 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 with any of your questions in this change. Their address, phone numbers and email addresses can be found on page two. Thank You!

Visited our Web Site Lately?



<http://www.viadechristo.org>

Webmaster: Bob Northrup

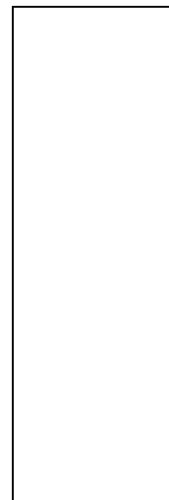
CONEXIONES-ON-THE-WEB

Are you interested in saving the NLS money? Please sign up to receive the E-Mail Notification by filling out the E-Mail Notification Request Form. How this works is that you will receive an email notification when the latest edition of the Conexiones has been posted on the NLS Web Page. You then can view the newsletter at your leisure and chose to copy it.



Judy Laabs-Foss
4495 Margaret Street
White Bear Township, MN 55110-3773

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