

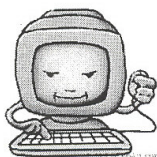


## East Tennessee Welcomes NLS Delegates, Visitors, & Supporters!

East Tennessee is rich in God's beautiful creation as well as a center for cultural, medical, academic, and recreation opportunities for visitors and residents alike. You will find that locals like to brag about this area for good reason! We hope you enjoy your stay on the campus of Johnson Bible College, one of several academic institutions in this area and the second oldest continuing four-year Bible College in the US.

Please refer to your notebooks for the daily schedule of activities, campus map, and a list of Important Information which includes Emergency Medical information; computer, copier, phone use; and reminders important to your stay on this campus. Remember that this entire campus is smoke, alcohol, and drug free. Also, please be considerate about people's sensitivity to the use of fragrances, shaving lotions, etc.

Thank you and God Bless your presence here!

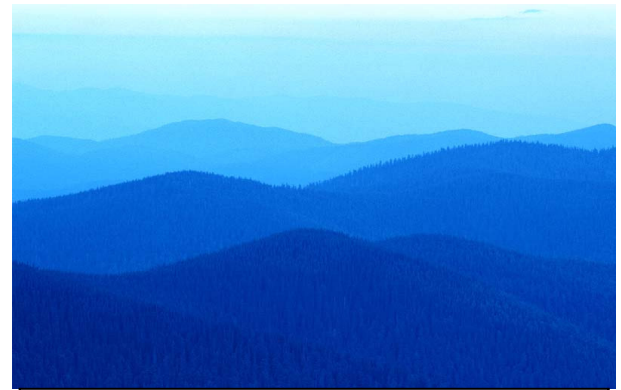


Don't forget to visit the NLS website for the latest and greatest:

[Viadecristo.org](http://Viadecristo.org)

### Your Host Committee

members have orange on their name tags. Please ask any of them for help if you need it. They can help you or find someone who can!



Typical Winter View of Eastern Mountains

### Welcome from the Chair!

By now you have probably settled in just a bit, and are anticipating all that will take place over the next three days. We hope your travels were safe, that you made all the correct turns, and amongst the inevitable construction and traffic jams or airport hassles, you were still able to find God's peace.

Now that you are here, know that you are among family. We are all Brothers and Sisters in Christ challenged and equipped for Christian action in our homes, churches and communities. We will grow in our understanding of what it means to be created, called and commissioned by God.

Please let us know if there is anything anyone on the National Board or Host Committee can do to enhance your time with us. This is a sacred time, and we look forward to going forth together with a Servant Heart and a Volunteer Spirit.

God Loves you and so do I!

*Jan Larson, Host Chair*



View from a trail in the Great Smoky Mountains

CONEXIONES

Vol 12.1 Thursday, July 22, 2004

Conexiones is the official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movement, representing 78,955 people who have participated in 39 movements across the U.S. The purpose of this publication is to inform the delegates about the activities at the Annual Meeting.

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### A Short History of the Knoxville Area

Knoxville's location, like so many others in colonial days, was determined by how easily it could be defended from the Indians. James White built a fort below the confluence of the Holston and French Broad Rivers which become the Tennessee River. William Blount was appointed by George Washington to be governor of the Southwest Territory. He picked this fort as the site for the capital of the territory, renaming it Knoxville after Henry Knox, Washington's Secretary of War. Blount built the first frame structure among the log buildings and upon its completion was dubbed "Blount Mansion". Today this frame house is the most significant historical site in the city.

As Knoxville grew, it established its own newspaper and a college. In preparation for statehood, the state constitution was written here. Even though Knoxville was designated the state capital, it never had a "building." Thus, when western expansion populated the rest of the state, those residents called for relocating the capital to a more central location. In 1826, Nashville was designated the state capital but it was agreed to let the state university remain in Knoxville.

The Civil War found the state divided between the plantation owners of the central and western parts of the state and the mountain east farmers who only had small farms because of the terrain. The city of Knoxville had many Confederate sympathizers but they were surrounded by staunch unionists.

Out of the Great Depression and the New Deal came the establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA.) This federal agency was charged with flood control, producing electrical power, and assisting in the development of natural resources of the Tennessee River drainage basin. The resulting lakes have almost as much shoreline as Florida has coastline.

Perhaps the most recent major impact on Knoxville came from hosting the World's Fair in 1982. In spite of the hustle and controversy that came with preparations for the opening of the fair, it brought improved interstate highways, a renewal of downtown, and a lot of new hotels and restaurants from which visitors and residents still benefit.

THURSDAY'S THEME: CREATED

Time	Event	Location	Building
	Registration	Johnson Hall Lobby	Dorm
11:30 a.m.	<b>Orientation</b>	Room 207	**PW**
12:15 p.m.	Lunch	Dining Hall	PW
1:15 p.m.	<b>Opening Worship &amp; commissioning</b>	Chapel on the Hill	Chapel
2:15 p.m.	Break		
2:30 p.m.	<b>Keynote "And We Shall Be Created"</b>	Room 203	PW
4:00 p.m.	<b>Business Meeting, Seating of the Delegates</b>	Room 203	PW
5:30 p.m.	Break		
6:00 p.m.	Dinner	Dining Hall	PW
7:00 p.m.	<b>Small Group Breakouts</b>	Gym	PW
8:30 p.m.	<b>Vespers</b>	Chapel on the Hill	Chapel
9:15 p.m.	<b>First Time Attendees Photo</b>	Chapel on the Hill	Chapel
9:15 p.m.	<b>Hospitality &amp; Music</b>	Lobby of PW	PW