

Connecting National and Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

Volume 30
Number 4
Dec. 2012

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

*NLS 2013 Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida
July 25 – 28, 2013*

Hosted by Region Seven, the Florida Secretariats

The Florida Secretariats (Gold Coast, Indian River, Lighthouse, Sonbeam, Sonshine, and Sonshine North) recently had the privilege of hosting the NLS Board in West Palm Beach at Palm Beach Atlantic University. We shared food, fellowship and prayer as we toured the beautiful campus, located on the intracoastal waterway just across from Palm Beach, and met to finalize arrangements for July.

As we continue to work toward strengthening our 4th Day and revitalizing our communities, the chosen theme for the 2013 annual meeting is "Streams of Living Water," based on John 7:37-39. *On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed were later to receive.* The verse was chosen to focus on the tripod of **Piety**, **Study** and **Action**, which we will explore in worship, forums and small groups.

Our Host Committee team has formed sub-committees under the guidelines provided by the NLS. We have been meeting monthly by teleconference and face-to-face to plan all the details necessary for July. The registration and travel forms will be available the first of the year in the *Conexiones* and on the Web. When making your travel arrangements you may choose to fly into Ft. Lauderdale International or Palm Beach International.

We look forward to having you join us in West Palm Beach, Florida, this coming July for sun and tropical breezes next to the sparkling waters of the intracoastal and the Atlantic Ocean! Join other 4th Dayers and enter into the Streams of Living Water – our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is calling YOU!



God loves you
and so do we!

Your 2013 Host
Co-Chairs,
Beverly Abt
and
Watson Ray

NLS Annual Meeting - Florida 2013



CONEXIONES

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**National Lutheran Secretariat****Conexiones-on-the-web****E-Mail Notification Request Form****E-Mail Notification — execdirector.nls@gmail.com**

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

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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 97,500 who have participated in 48 movements across the U.S. Via de Cristo is a Lutheran expression of Cursillo®, a renewal movement developed within the Roman Catholic Church in the late 1940s. The Lutheran movement had its beginning in Florida and Iowa in 1972. The purpose of this publication is to inform all members of each NLS affiliated secretariat, Lutheran Bishops and District Presidents about the activities of the National Lutheran Secretariat and its affiliated secretariats. Subscriptions to the above named positions are free. If you know one of the above is not receiving **CONEXIONES**, call a member of the board at the numbers listed on the side.

Subscriptions for the general public are \$6.00 per year, and are available by sending your name, complete mailing address, and phone numbers to **CONEXIONES** Treasurer, **Steve Barnett**, 5091 Oley Turnpike Road Reading, PA 19606 or contact him at; [610-301-9900](tel:610-301-9900) (C)

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.

Spiritual Director's Report

“JOURNEY VERSUS EXPERIENCE”

Pastor Joe Nilsen, at our National Gathering in July, talked about the Via de Cristo not as an “experience” but as a “journey.”



I’ve thought a good deal about that since July. I think one of the reasons it struck me is because it’s so counter to the process by which our culture would have us operate. In our culture, it’s really all about reaching a goal – it’s always the result that counts.

I remember how eager I was to finish Seminary so I could get out into the real world and be a pastor – that was, after all, why I was at Seminary in the first place. But, now that I’ve been out here serving in this wonderful capacity for 15 years, I can look back and see how much joy there was in the Seminary journey – the learning, the people, even in the struggles there was great value.

It really is all about the journey, and when we truly realize that and stop hoping for a perfect or even better future, that’s when we will truly experience the meaning and thus the joy of the journey.

My Via de Cristo was 32 years ago – I still remember many wonderful, grace-filled moments from that experience. But many things about Rainbow #6 are fuzzy at best now. What is much clearer and much more important than my weekend experience is the journey onto which that amazing time thrust me.

I don’t know how many weekends I’ve worked in the past 32 years, but they cover three different Via de Cristo communities and both men’s and women’s weekends. Every one of those weekends was exactly the same and exactly different, and along the journey of all those weekends, I have become a different person, Christian, leader, pastor. The influence of my journey has also impacted the lives of others over those years.

I have said these words in the “life in Grace” Rollo on every Via de Cristo weekend on which I have served...

“My most fervent hope is that this amazing, grace-filled weekend will not be just a pleasant memory, but will take you from this mountaintop onto an incredible journey that will change your life and touch countless hearts. That is what this is all

about, after all – a journey of grace.”

The problem with our culture is that there are too many people, who, through an intellectual process have brought Jesus into their world view instead of being transformed into his. The Via de Cristo, when experienced as a grace journey, moves people from their world view into Jesus’ worldview – into the discipleship organism. Our journey of faith is really all about discipleship because it’s all about following Jesus.

When we make the decision to live from our Via de Cristo weekend experience into the journey of grace, Jesus’ words to us and everyone around us become real and alive. We live out **The Great Commandment** to “love one another as we have been loved.” And we walk in the midst of **The Great Commission** to “make disciples of all nations.” And we journey together as we devote ourselves to **The Great Requirement** to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.”

Yes, it really is **all** about the journey – the beauty, the light, the mercy, the peace – the lessons we learn, the friends we make and keep, the hearts and lives that are touched and transformed. It’s about an incredible, grace-filled expedition, not the places we stop temporarily along the way.

God bless us all on this amazing journey.

Pastor John Bradford,
NLS Spiritual Director



NLS 2012 Conference Call Minutes

Sunday, August 12, 2012:

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm Sunday, August 12. Present on teleconference: EB members -- Pr. John Bradford, Ed Broestl, Rick Hanzlik, Carolyn Hawkins, Judy Laabs-Foss, Nancy Peterson, Diane Purcell, and Magdala Ray; HC members – Bud Blazier, Mark Carnes, Ro Fesser, and Carol McGill (Chair).

Ed led the group in the prayer to the Holy Spirit. Ed and Carolyn then led the group in the first joint teleconference debrief of an annual meeting. At the conclusion of the debrief discussion, Ed thanked the HC and praised God for the two Colorado secretariats which came together to host the 2012 NLSAM with servant hearts, love and grace. The HC members then signed off the teleconference.

Ministry reports were presented as follows:

Secretary: Magdala has sent out the draft 2012 NLSAM EB and business meeting minutes and has received some comments and corrections. Pending further changes, the finals will be sent out next. She is working on thank you notes and creating the new action item lists.

Newsletter Editor: Judy was grateful for the input from the HC on how the communications process can be improved, and she will be working with Carolyn to update the HC manual in that area.

Financial Advisor: Diane and Steve B have been in contact and all is well.

Spiritual Director: Pr. John shared his activities since the annual meeting and will be praying for both the 2012 NLSAM HC and the upcoming 2013 HC.

AV/Website Administrator: Rick has been able to configure the LD section of the forum on the website; Ed will test it tomorrow.

VP-Administration: Carolyn had a wonderful separate conversation and debrief with the 2012 HC chair, Carol McGill, who found the hosting to be a great experience. She has talked with Watson Ray, 2013 HC co-chair, and he and members of his committee will be touring Palm Beach Atlantic University, the 2013 site, in the next week. The mid-year meeting will begin at 1:00pm on Friday, November 16th. Ed will be flying in on Thursday so that he will be there in plenty of time. Diane expressed concern over the difference in cost flying into Palm Beach International airport, and Magdala explained that transportation will be provided in November and next July from Ft. Lauderdale airport, also.

Executive Director: Nancy inquired as to whether any secretariats have a list of good reading material for the Study Rollo because one of the secretariats has asked for help with that. Judy indicated that MN has such a list, and Carolyn added that in NC, the Study rollista compiles the list. Ed asked Pr. John to give some thought to creating a list which NLS could provide. Nancy has also received more updates from secretariats and is updating the database.

President: Ed asked if others are having difficulty reaching the LDs for prayer requests, and the group discussed some communication difficulties, which

Pr. John called a “disease of our culture.” Ed asked if there is information about the history of the travel and vendor policies Diane sent out. Diane replied that the travel policy was developed at the 2009 NLSAM in Miami, and the vendor policy was created at the 2008 NLSAM in Phoenix. Ed will also ask Ron Millard for information about past policy history. Ed asked the group to consider a question raised by the 2012 HC whether the cost of the annual meeting is a wise use of funds for NLS and for local secretariats. He also asked that we pray about communication and expectations for this coming year.

Pr. John led a prayer based on the group’s prayer requests, and Ed led all in the Lord’s Prayer.

The next teleconference meeting will be on Sunday, September 9th, at 7:00pm EDT.

The August 12th teleconference meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully
submitted,
Magdala Ray,
NLS Secretary



NLS 2012 Conference Call Minutes — Continued

Sunday, September 9, 2012:

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm Sunday, September 9. Present on teleconference: Steve Barnett, Pr. John Bradford, Ed Broestl, Steve Gielda, Carolyn Hawkins, Judy Laabs-Foss, Nancy Peterson, and Diane Purcell. Rick Hanzlik and Magdala Ray were excused.

Ed led the group in the prayer to the Holy Spirit. He then provided information on the mid-year meeting, November 16-18th, in West Palm Beach, FL. Since that weekend is the beginning of the Thanksgiving holiday travel season, tickets may be more expensive; flying into Ft. Lauderdale will be less expensive. Everyone on this teleconference, including Rick and Magdala, will be attending. Judy, Diane, and Nancy will be traveling together and flying into West Palm Beach. More information will be coming about the schedule in the next two weeks. Ed also confirmed that the upcoming NLS Musings email will have articles from Steve G and Ed; we are following the rotation of Nancy, Steve G, and Carolyn with Ed on these monthly newsletters to the LDs.

Ministry reports were presented as follows:

Newsletter Editor: Judy reported that the newsletter is done; Rick will be posting it next. The next newsletter deadline is November 15th; however, Judy encouraged all reports and articles to be sent to her by November 1st. Nancy asked about progress in sending out emails with the newsletter link; Ed is working with Rick on that. Judy noted that when Lucy Hightower was sending out

the newsletter link emails, the number of emails sent was less than 1,000. It may be higher now. Nancy noted that almost everyone on the database has indicated a preference for an emailed link.

Treasurer: Steve B made a motion to move some of the NLS funds into an interest bearing account (CD) so that we can be better stewards of the funds entrusted to us. Steve G seconded the motion. After some discussion about the funds needed for current expenses and assurance from Steve B that the funds would be accessible in an emergency situation, the motion was approved unanimously. Steve B noted that he emailed the monthly reports to the EB; there were no questions. He also asked for the EB's direction in working with secretariats which had difficulty paying their dues. Ed assigned EB members to contact the secretariats to first seek ways to support them in becoming stronger and secondly to discuss the matter of dues. This effort will also be coordinated with the Regional Coordinators.

Steve B inquired about which EB member is to research the board insurance costs and the video conferencing, both items approved at the 2012 NLSAM. Diane, Ed and Steve B will seek information for the insurance, and Ed and Rick will complete their research on the video conferencing after conferring with Steve G for the needs of the Regional Coordinators' outreach program.

Financial Advisor: Diane had no new information to report.

Spiritual Director: Pr. John also had no new information to report.

VP-Outreach: Steve G reported that Alice Allison is shipping out the T-shirts ordered at the 2012 NLSAM. He has updated the Regional Coordinators' outreach program PowerPoint shown at Denver; LDs have been asking him for it so they can show it to their local secretariats. He is planning to run a pilot with two secretariats and is arranging a face-to-face meeting with Wendy Showalter for the final development of the pilot. The full launch for all regions will be in January 2013. Ed requested that Steve G present the results of the pilot at the mid-year meeting.

VP-Administration: Carolyn inquired as to the next steps Ed would like the EB to take with the 2012 HC debrief session notes and their filed reports. After some discussion among the EB members, it was agreed that all EB members will review the notes and reports to provide input and to determine that all issues will be addressed at the mid-year meeting. This input should be emailed to the entire EB by the end of the month; Carolyn will coordinate a master list of issues. Carolyn is also working on revising the HC Manual with the goal of providing the new version to the 2014 NLSAM hosts; Judy and Diane will provide assistance in the revision effort. Carolyn, Steve B, and Ed shared information about the regions considering hosting in 2014 through 2016; Judy suggested that the November newsletter would be a good way to share any news available about the 2014 hosts and to invite other regions to consider hosting in 2015 and 2016.

NLS 2012 Conference Call Minutes — Continued

Executive Director: Nancy has been answering questions from secretariats regarding teams and the regional coordinators' outreach program as well as working with the 2013 HC communications sub-committee. She is arranging a trip to visit the two Wisconsin secretariats on the first weekend of November.

President: Ed reported on the progress being made by the ED Task Force established at the 2012 NLSAM. The task force members are enthusiastic and knowledgeable with invaluable years of experience and expertise in developing finance plans. Prayers are requested for continued success in the planning and development process. Nancy requested input on questions which should be asked of the Walk to Emmaus leadership when she meets with them; this will be discussed on the October 14th teleconference.

Ed led a prayer based on the group's prayer requests, and all joined in praying the Lord's Prayer.

The next teleconference meeting will be on Sunday, October 14th, at 7:00pm EDT.

The September 9th teleconference meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Magdala Ray,
NLS Secretary

Sunday, October 14, 2012:

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm Sunday, October 14. Present on teleconference: Steve Barnett, Ed Broestl, Rick Hanzlik, Carolyn Hawkins, Judy Laabs-Foss, Nancy Peterson, Diane Purcell, Magdala and Watson Ray. Pr. John Bradford and Steve Giolda were excused.

Ed led the group in the prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Ministry reports were presented as follows:

Secretary: Magdala has made corrections to the August minutes and will send out the final version. The September draft minutes were sent out this afternoon for corrections, additions, clarifications and/or changes. The action item lists will be sent out before the end of the month.

Newsletter Editor: Judy will be sending out a reminder of the November 1st deadline for newsletter articles and reports. Rick will be posting the September newsletter on the web this evening. Judy, Diane and Nancy have experienced some difficulty in finding flights for the mid-year meeting.

Treasurer: Steve B explained that the budget deficit showing on the monthly financial reports is normal for this time of year before dues have been received; there are no unusual expenses. He is awaiting the final profit/loss statement from the 2012 HC. The 2013 HC has paid Palm Beach Atlantic University the required \$1,000 deposit; Watson will check this week whether the university caterer requires another deposit, although the university liaison did

not mention it. Steve B noted that Ed saved the NLS some money by scheduling his Frontier flights before and after the actual weekend of the mid-year meeting.

Financial Advisor: Diane reported that she will bring the tax forms requiring EB signatures with her to the mid-year meeting.

Palanca Coordinator: Paul was not present on the teleconference; however, Nancy noted that two secretariats had contacted her expressing concern that they had not received many palanca letters for their weekends. She asked how the process worked. Steve B explained that most secretariats sign up on the NLS website as well as on the Three Day site and receive updates, but the largest response comes from secretariats exchanging their weekend dates with each other as they receive Palanca. Diane also explained that Paul updates the list in the Conexiones with information he receives from the individual secretariats. Ed asked if we can include email addresses with the other contact information and noted that we will brainstorm at mid-year on how to increase Palanca. Nancy will send an email with information about the two secretariats which reported the low results.

Website Administrator: Rick asked if there are any new guidelines regarding the use of the share directory on the NLS website. Ed and Rick will be discussing three main concerns in a phone conversation this coming week: 1) security of the material; 2) increasing awareness among secretariats of the material available; and 3) accessibility to the material by the secretariats. Diane

noted that trademarks and copyright are aspects of the concern for security. Nancy asked Rick about progress in devising a way to email everyone on the database with the link to the newsletter each time a new Conexiones is published. Rick has checked the website's capabilities, and we could send up to 1,000 emails/day. Nancy will send Rick the updated database, and he will send out 500 emails/day with the newsletter link.

VP-Administration: Carolyn is working on compiling the 2012 NLSAM evaluations and will be sending that out to the EB in the next day or so; it will be discussed at mid-year. Carolyn is also keeping the master list of issues and topics gleaned from the 2012 HC debrief notes and reports; all EB members' comments should be sent to Carolyn as soon as possible. Judy requested that the 2013 HC send an article for the November newsletter; Watson said he will see that she receives that.

Host Committee Chair: Watson asked when the HC would have the mid-year transportation itinerary and the meeting schedule; Ed and Carolyn will work on that this week. Watson also had a question about the Thrivent grant application process, and Carolyn will send information by email. Watson provided the worship schedule for Faith Lutheran Church in North Palm Beach, where the mid-year meeting will be held; the Sunday services are at 8am and 10:45am. Ed indicated that the EB will most likely attend the 8am service due to meeting schedule and travel plans.

Executive Director: Nancy requested that the EB members

think about any updates needed to the annual survey and be prepared to share those at mid-year. She noted that the Wisconsin secretariats are excited about her upcoming visit; perhaps other visits by the ED or other EB members are needed to help support all VdC communities. She will be traveling to Nashville, TN, this coming Friday where she is being hosted by Walk to Emmaus at their annual international conference; EB members should send her questions before Friday of items we would like her to ask while at the conference.

President: Ed will be sending out pre-mid-year meeting reading material. Mid-year discussion items will include the ED task force's recommendations and the proposed constitution and bylaw revisions. Ed received an email from Pr. Doug Givan about a new hospital chaplaincy to which he has been called.

Ed led a prayer based on the group's prayer requests, and all joined in praying the Lord's Prayer.

The next teleconference meeting will be on Sunday, November 11th, at 7:00pm EDT.

The October 14th teleconference meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Magdala Ray,
NLS Secretary



**PALM BEACH
ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**



V.P. of Outreach Report

Listen and Follow – it’s rarely a bad idea!

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful fall weather. Fall is my favorite time of year, the changing color of the leaves, the crisp in the air, the need to put on jeans and a sweatshirt. And of course there is football, one of my favorite sports to watch. But just like we can predict the changing of the seasons, we can predict that term limits on elected positions happen too. As many of you know, my term as Vice President of Outreach for the NLS Board will be coming to an end in July. Now is the time we need to begin to pray about whom God will call to this elected position.

I know when I was called the seed was planted early. Tracy Schmidlin spoke to Pastor John Bradford about the idea of asking me to join the NLS Board. When Pastor John came to me, I provided the acceptable and respected response, “Let me pray about it”. I thought that would be a gracious ‘put-off’ until they found someone else. I wondered why would they ask me? Even though I was Lay Director of Rainbow VdC, I’d had only been to one NLS meeting in the past and those who know me will tell you I am not a big fan of protocol and Roberts Rules of Order. I really didn’t think this was going to be ‘fit’ for me. In addition, I had a job that kept me on the road nearly every week and there was no way I would be able to do this job too and keep up with my family and things around the house. But I kept feeling the push of the Holy Spirit and in 2009 I decided to stretch myself, do what is uncomfortable for me and accept the nomination as VP of Outreach.

Within my first 30 days all I could do was think; “Wow, God provided me a wonderful opportunity... I just don’t want to screw this up”. I have truly enjoyed EVERY aspect of this position. I have had the opportunity to speak and work with nearly every Secretariat in the country and even those outside of the US. I have felt the love, support and grace from this wonderful Via de Cristo community. People in our VdC community want to reach out and provide others with the opportunity to experience a deeper life with Jesus Christ, and my job is to help them do just that! What a wonderful thing to do!

I encourage you to pray about who should be our next VP of Outreach. Is God calling you? Is God

calling someone in your community? I was uncertain and scared about what I was stepping into. You or those to whom you ask may feel the same way. I encourage you to listen to Him. Pray about this and know that I will ALWAYS be available to help if it’s needed. Please call me 703-266-7667 or email me sgielda@verizon.net if you want to learn more about this blessing the God has provided me.

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



**PALM BEACH
ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**



NLS Executive Director

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have moved into the next season of the year – not only with weather changes but also within the church. And as seasons change, we all deal with changes in our lives. Choices, decisions, new opportunities. How you make those decisions is just as important as the decisions you make. Let God be your guide in your decisions making, and the way you deal with life and the people you meet. Learn to hear and listen to that still, small voice.



I had the opportunity to spend a little time in northern Wisconsin at a Northern Light VdC weekend. What a great group of Christians! The Spirit was alive and well and so very visible during my visit. Meeting and chatting with team members both there and at the weekend down at Sonrise, (WI) was so very rewarding. At the annual meeting in Denver last summer I was delighted to meet so many of you and start building those relationships. I look forward to continuing to do so as we work together for Christ. Having relationships and talking things over help you make decisions. Having a relationship and talking things over with God is even better! May your relationship with Christ help you navigate the various seasons of your life.

Go with God.
 Nancy Peterson
 NLS Executive Director

Merry Christmas



**PALM BEACH
 ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**



NLS President's Report

Grace, peace, mercy, and love from God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

I just returned from a church luncheon where the speaker mentioned that within the last week he sat next to an old friend at a meeting. The old friend was killed in an automobile accident the day before yesterday. On hearing this, I paused and was reminded that God told us to be ready!

Saint Peter tells us in 1 Peter 3:15b: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." As a small business owner, I was always ready with my elevator speech: a 30-second "pitch" that succinctly described our business and invited further conversation. On my journey with God, strengthened by my Cursillo weekend experience, He provides opportunities through serving on teams, weekly grouping times, and occasional Ultreyas to refine a different elevator speech. It now better describes my faith and invites others to discuss the relationship God wants with His creation. I trust that all reading this are prepared to do as Peter says: to confess their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and how God has nurtured and protected them on their journey.

During Jesus' journey, Luke records Jesus telling his disciples to be watchful (Luke 12: 35 – 48). Right now verse 40 is very relevant: "You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour

when you do not expect him." God is always with us! God, Holy Spirit is always there whether we want to recognize Him or not. My Cursillo weekend experience strengthened my journey by providing tools! The infamous "Green Card" that asks: What was the moment you felt closest to Christ? (Piety) What was the most helpful Spiritual insight from your study? (Study) What was the moment of your most burning witness? Most sacrificial service? (Action) Being close, providing insight, and either a burning witness or a sacrificial service all help us to be ready. Ready for His return – or – ready for us to hear God call. Thank you Lord for your promptings and our ability to rest in your love, kindness, mercy, and grace. Thank you Lord for helping us to be ready when we don't necessarily expect your presence.

Take God in! Take a deep breath and rejoice! Thankfully, God is not yet done with us! He provides reminders on our journey – reminders to be ready. Thank you Lord, for every last one of our experiences. Thank you Lord, for being with us on our journeys.

Ed Broestl,
NLS President



ALL SECRETARIATS TAKE NOTE!

All 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations are required to file a Form 990 with the IRS. The return is due on the fifteenth day of the fifth month after your fiscal year end. For most, the year end is December 31st so the form is due on May 15, 2013. The secretariat's gross income level determines which form needs to be filed. Many will file the electronic form 990-N for organizations with income less than \$50,000.00.

Please be sure that the secretariat is also filing any state reports which are required. Many states require an annual registration for the corporation. The filing is usually due by December 31 of each year. The web site for the State's Attorney General Office or the web site for the Secretary of State Office are good resources for determining the requirements.

If the Secretariat is not s 501(c)(3) , a federal corporate income tax return should be filed as well as any state income tax return required. Form 1120 is due on the fifteenth day of the third month after the end of the fiscal year. For corporations with a December 31 year end, the form is due March 15th.

If your secretariat has questions, please contact **Diane Purcell**, NLS Financial Advisor dspurcell@msn.com

Palanca!!!

2012 WEEKENDS:

- Oct./Nov 2012 - AZ: **So. Arizona Lutheran VDC**, Men #31: Oct 18-21 & Women #32: Nov 8-11, Send palanca to: Cindy Stein 7449 Clemons Way Tucson, AZ 85749
- Oct./Nov 2012 - WI: **Wisconsin Sunrise VDC**, Men #81: Oct 25-28, & Women #82: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Bart Olson 2218 Hillington Green Madison, WI 53726
- Nov. 2012 - IN/KY: **Indiana-Kentucky VDC (North)**, Coed #18: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Barb Ankenman 814 Brittany Trail Florence, KY 41042
- Nov. 2012 - NC: **Eastern No. Carolina VDC**, Mixed #81: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Terry Park 110 Smith Landing Lane Hillsville, VA 24323
- Nov 2012 - WI/MI: **Northern Light VDC of WI and Upper MI**, Men #23 & Women #24: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Richard Neitzel 18189 Hwy 41 W Champion, MI 49814
- Nov. 2012 - FL: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men #60; Nov. 8-11 & Women #60; Nov. 15-18, Send palanca to: Linda Barnard 4700 46th Ave. No. #11 St. Petersburg, FL 33714
- Nov. 2012 - IL: **Taste of Grace VDC**, Coed #17: Nov. 8-11 Send palanca to: Susan Lacy sllacy50@att.net
- Nov. 2012 - PA: **Journey in Faith VDC**, Coed #5: Nov. 8-11 Send palanca to: Patti Kline 43-2 Azalea Way Reading, PA 19606
- Nov. 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Coed #586: Nov. 15-18, Send palanca to: Mary Arfmann 2333 4th Ave. NW Owatonna, MN 55060-1209

Check Web for the latest updates and for the upcoming 2013 weekends



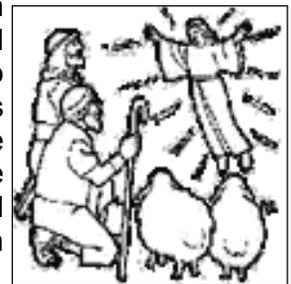
THE CHRISTMAS STORY from LUKE 2: 11-20



Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



JESUS ~ NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES!

*Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.
 Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.
 Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.
 Had no army, yet kings feared Him.
 He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.
 He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.
 He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.*



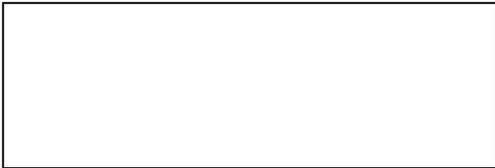


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**Important news from the
NLS Distribution Center**

The new NLS Devotion Booklets created for introduction at the Denver 2012 NLS Annual Meeting were entirely sold out by Saturday evening. If you would like to receive some of these booklets please contact me by telephone or email. I can have more printed and have them shipped directly to you as a way to save shipping costs. Orders of 100 or more will result in the largest savings to you. These

are wonderful palanca gifts for weekend pilgrims, family, and friends.

Also to save you even more, we have reduced prices of some items we offer for sale. The 2011 NLS History Book is reduced 50% to \$5.00 each. All CD and DVD Discs are now \$3.50 each, this is also a 50% price cut.

At the Denver meeting I was asked by several clergy about a DVD Disc called "Pastor Interviews" recorded in 2009 in Florida. I do have this disc for sale now.

Place all orders (except for the Devotion Booklet) at the NLS

Web Site: <http://www.viadecristo.org> or
email joab@xmission.com or phone **801-561-0122**.

Please share this information with your local VDC Community.

Peace,
The Distribution Center John Bradford



Visited our Web Site Lately?

www.viadecristo.org

Webmaster: Rick Hanzlik