

CATALYST

NACSW CONVENTION 2008 IS COMING TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA!

Plan now to spend time next February in Orlando, Florida at the 2008 NACSW Convention. NACSW's next annual conference will be held February 7-10, 2008 at the Holiday Inn—International Drive Resort in Orlando. Situated in the middle of tourist-friendly Orlando this location provides the opportunity for participants to attend the conference and enjoy the warmth, fun, and excitement of the area.

Based on the conference theme "Called to Justice: Preserving Human



Dignity and Worth" the conference program includes plenary sessions with speakers Sister Linda Yankoski, President/CEO of Holy Family Institute, Harold Koenig, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Co-Director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health at Duke University, and Luis Perez, Nazareth College.

Three pre-convention institutes will also be held on Thursday February 7, 2008 offering participants the chance to earn an additional six continuing education units. Mary Van Hook of the University of Central Florida will present on the topic of spirituality; Wheeler Winstead of MTEC will present a pre-convention institute on the topic of Christian community development; and Anna Rodriguez will present on multi-sector collaboration to address human trafficking.



Linda Yankoski



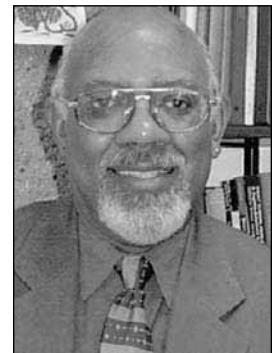
Harold Koenig



Luis Perez

NACSW'S APRIL 30TH AUDIO CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WORK AS A MINISTRY OF RACIAL RECONCILIATION

NACSW is delighted to announce that it will offering its next audio conference workshop on April 30th, 2007 entitled *Social Work as a Ministry of Racial Reconciliation* from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern Standard Time. During this audio conference, Mikal Rasheed, Ph.D. will explain that competent social workers must be aware of their own cultural bias while maintaining awareness of the cultural differences and cultural values important to clients. Yet in emphasizing cultural and racial bias and differences one may ignore the shared, inclusive and interlocking mutuality of human experiences. Such neglect in the understanding the commonality of human experience can reinforce racial and ethnic stereotypes and perpetuate the sins of racial divisiveness and enmity. Christian social workers are required not only to be culturally competent practitioners but to understand racial divisiveness as a spiritual disease and thus an offense against God. Thus social workers are challenged to undertake a



Mikal Rasheed

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AUDIO CONFERENCE

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ministry of racial reconciliation. This workshop, which integrates a theology of racial reconciliation with the principles of dialogical inquiry, will inform and expand existing cross cultural social work practice models as well as provide a framework for a social work ministry of racial reconciliation.

Mikal N. Rasheed has a PhD, from Loyola University Chicago, and an MA from the University Of Chicago School Of Social Service Administration. He is currently the MSW Program Director and Chair of the Social Work Department at Chicago State University in Chicago, IL.

Audio conferences have been designed so that any person or group can participate simply by calling a telephone number provided upon registration by NACSW from any tele-

phone in the US or Canada. For additional information (including workshop description and learning objectives), and/or to register on-line, you can go to NACSW's website at <http://www.nacsw.org>, or you can contact the NACSW office tollfree at 888-426-4712 to register on the phone.

Registration rates for NACSW members are just \$35, \$25 for student members, or \$75 for organizational members (for rates in Canadian dollars, simply multiply by the current exchange rate). Participants can also sign up for continuing education contact hours approved by the Association of Social Work Boards for an additional nominal fee of only \$5 per person.

We hope you are able to join us on April 30th for our next audio conference workshop!

NACSW'S PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PLAN

Since April, 1998 NACSW has been pleased to offer professional liability insurance to both its members who practice social work in the United States, as well as to BSW and MSW students. The company that provides this insurance, the American Professional Agency (APA), is also the provider of insurance for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), as well as a host of other well-known non-profit associations.

NACSW's insurance plan includes both part-time and fulltime coverage, and meets a wide range of insurance needs corresponding to NACSW's diverse membership. As such, any of the following are eligible to apply for insurance coverage under NACSW's plan:

- Self-employed or consulting/per diem social workers or counselors with an MSW, MA, or similar clinical degree
- Practicing social workers or counselors (with either a BSW or MSW or similar degrees) who work for a social service organization
- Social work interns
- Pastors/clergy

For additional information (including current rates) or to access an insurance application, you can either visit NACSW's website at <http://www.nacsw.org/liability.html>, or contact the American Professional Agency (800.421.6694). If you are a social work student intern, contact Roseanne directly at 800.421.6694, Ext. 265.

Remember to check to make sure your NACSW membership is current before you apply for this liability insurance. The American Professional Association contacts NACSW to confirm the membership of any applicant before they process an application form.

CATALYST

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Rick Chamiec-Case, Ph.D., MSW
Executive Director & *Catalyst* Editor

Catalyst is published 4 times a year for members of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work. The purpose of *Catalyst* is to inform the membership regarding the mission and programs of NACSW.

Catalyst is intended to be an open forum for members to express their perspectives on a wide range of issues of interest to Christians in social work. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of NACSW.

Publication in *Catalyst* in no way implies endorsement or certification of the authors' qualifications, ability, or proficiency to practice social work, or to integrate faith and practice. Similarly, publication of an advertisement in *Catalyst* does not imply endorsement by NACSW of any services or products advertised.

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2008 CONVENTION

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In addition to the general sessions participants can select from multiple workshop offerings throughout the conference in six tracks: administration/policy; community organizing and development; faith of the social worker; social justice, human dignity and worth; social work education; and social work direct practice. Workshop proposals are being accepted until July 15, 2007. For more information and to submit a proposal for a workshop or poster presentation please go to NACSW's website at www.nacsw.org.

Please visit NACSW's website at www.nacsw.org for more information about the 2008 conference, opportunities to sponsor an event or advertise or exhibit at the conference, and to register.

BEING A CHRISTIAN AND BEING A SOCIAL WORKER PROFESSION'S POLICY STATEMENTS (PART 2)

Back in the October issue of *Catalyst*, in my column, entitled, "Being a Christian and Being a Social Worker: The Profession's Code of Ethics," I wrote about a number of students who have called the NACSW office concerned that they have been confronted in class by one or more of their social work professors that "one cannot be both a serious Christian and a social worker." In my October column I argued that: (1) the core values articulated in the NASW *Code of Ethics* (1999) (service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence) are highly congruent with core Christian beliefs and values; and (2) that the Code of Ethics itself acknowledges the unavoidable influence of cultural and religious beliefs and practices on ethical decision-making for *all* social workers, and that if/when there is potential conflict between one's personal and one's professional values, the social worker's ethical obligation is to be aware of this potential conflict and to deal with it responsibly – not to make a forced choice between one set of values or the other. I ended my column by concluding that it seemed highly unlikely to me that one could make the case that a person cannot be both a serious Christian and a social worker based on the profession's code of ethics.

In this column, I would like to explore whether this claim about the inherent inconsistency between being a serious Christian and a social worker could be supported by perceived tensions between NASW policy statements and the beliefs of some or many Christians in social work. The current (7th) of *Social Work Speaks* (2006) now contains 74 policy statements including positions on Child Abuse and Neglect, International Policy on Human Rights, Racism, School Dropout Prevention, etc. Yet of these 74 policy statements, arguably only a very small percentage potentially raise issues that might be in tension with the values of Christians

in social work. Equally important, in most cases, even the very few policy statements one might think could raise concerns for Christians in social work – Family Planning and Reproductive Choice, for example – articulate that not all social workers view the issues in question the same way, nor that they are they required to do so.

For example, the NASW Policy Statement on Family Planning and Reproductive Choice states that some individual social workers will choose "not to participate in the provision of abortion or other specific reproductive health services" (NASW, 2006, p. 148). It is important to note that this policy statement does not suggest such a choice is inappropriate or unacceptable, but only that for the individual social worker who makes this choice, "it is his or her responsibility to provide appropriate referral services" (NASW, 2006, p. 148). Similarly, the NASW Policy Statement on End-of-Life Care implies a diversity of views on this topic and leaves open the option for the social worker to "refer the client or family to another social workers if your own value system conflicts with your client's decisions" (NASW, 2006, p. 134).

So here again, from the vantage point of these two NASW policy statements (and I would argue most of the rest as well), it strikes me that the claim that one cannot be both a social worker and a serious Christian – or a serious Hindu or an orthodox Jew for that matter – has little substantive support. And



Rick Chamiec-Case,
NACSW Executive Director

in fact, I think we have some grounds to turn the ethical tables on any social work educator who would make such a claim and suggest that to do so – especially with vulnerable, impressionable students just beginning their social work education – is both inappropriate and perhaps even ethically suspect. As always, your comments and questions (please send them Rick@nacsw.org) on this important topic would be most welcome!

REFERENCES

National Association of Social Workers, (1999) *Code of ethics of the National Association of Social Workers*. Washington, D.C.: NASW.

National Association of Social Workers. (2006.) *Social work speaks: National Association of Social Workers policy statements, 2006-2009* (7th ed.). Washington, D.C.: NASW.



(l. to r.) Felipe Garza with Buckner Children & Family Services, Rick Chamiec-Case, and Vicki Hanson with NASW-TX, on a panel discussion on faith and practice at the 2007 convention in Dallas, TX.

PRAYER CORNER

Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God...Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:1,2)

It's been eight years since God first spoke to me through *The Message* version of this passage in Romans asking me to "Take your everyday, ordinary life.and place it before God as an offering." After six years of studies to attain my M.S.W. as part of a career change and only a few years working in a prestigious job with a large Christian organization I felt God asking me to go back to my ordinary life at home as I had done for many years as a stay-at-home mom. With my insight as a program evaluator I felt called to research the spiritual process and write about it – what is it and can it be measured just like we have learned to evaluate programs?

There have been many times of frustration when I decided it was time to pick up my pen and write but heard the words "Not yet!" During these years there has been much pain in my life. I found myself in what seems like an endless period of difficult desert time that God has been using to teach me about the spiritual process. And yet in the midst of all the pain I found a slowly increasing sense of peace and joy I had never sensed before. And then it all came together the week before Christmas.

I had replaced the plain glass window in my front door with a lovely frosted leaded glass window to enhance the esthetic appeal of my home and to improve energy efficiency. However, it was at dusk when the streetlights came on that I was surprised by an unanticipated benefit. The annoying street lights and car headlights that shone directly onto my front door at night, both sources of irritation I had learned reluctantly to accept and live with, transformed the window into a brilliant piece of art as the glass refracted the outside lights. What had been an irritation was now a source of joy and beauty. And I was humbled as I realized God's message to me that this was a metaphor for my life. While I had prayed for Him to take away the sources of pain, He has been using them to bring me into a deeper relationship with Him. A slow transformation has been taking place, a "renewing of my mind" as I learn increasingly to trust Him in all situations. Instead of looking out at the world with self-pity, anger and resignation, I find myself looking out with increasing joy and anticipation on my ordinary life.

Like Jacob who wrestled with the angel, let us persevere in our time of trials and ask God to reveal the blessings we may receive from them. In seeking relief from painful situations too quickly



Magda Wills

NACSW E-PUBLISHES ITS CONVENTION 2007 PROCEEDINGS

For the fifth year in a row, NACSW will be e-publishing a conference proceedings comprised of representative papers and poster sessions presented during its Convention 2007 in Dallas, Texas. On-line access to this proceedings will soon be available at no cost to NACSW members and friends at: www.nacsw.org/Convention/Proceedings2007.htm. A wide range of materials from full-length papers to detailed presentation outlines were submitted for inclusion.

Since NACSW's goal is to make these materials available as quickly as possible, except for some very basic formatting, accepted submissions will not undergo a formal editing process. NACSW's hope is that this proceedings will significantly extend the impact and reach of the materials presented in Dallas at Convention 2007!

we may miss out on some of God's greatest gifts. We might come out wounded with a permanent limp but the spiritual blessings far outweigh the handicap. And toxic spirituality, does that occur when we reluctantly accept our lot in life or blame God for not answering our prayers to remove the painful circumstances He wants to use to transform us and our outlook on life?

EARNING CEUS WITH- OUT LEAVING YOUR HOME OR OFFICE

One of the questions I am asked frequently by NACSW members and friends is this: does NACSW offer opportunities for earning CEUs – and how far will I have to travel to get them?

I'm delighted to be able to tell them that in addition to offering more

traditional options for earning CEUs (for example, by attending NACSW's annual conventions or regional conference workshops), NACSW has also developed several programs that allow NACSW members to earn CEUs without leaving their homes or offices. Let me provide a brief summary about one of these programs--NACSW's home study program.

NACSW's home study program: Since 1999, NACSW has offered mem-

bers the opportunity to earn two continuing contact hours simply by reading any issue of our journal, *Social Work and Christianity*, and completing a specially-designed quiz based on the material in that issue. This home study program, coordinated by an organization called *JournaLearning International* (which coordinates a similar home study program for the *Psychotherapy Networker*),

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ON CHRIST CRUCIFIED

In the last issue of *Catalyst*, I expressed by preference for the preaching of Christ crucified over preaching on hot-button issues of political significance. As I write for this issue, the scripture selections for the next Sunday, as provided by the Revised Common Lectionary, present me with a dilemma. They include Luke 6:17-26, the beginning of the Sermon on the Plain:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
For yours is the Kingdom of God.
Blessed are you who are hungry now,
For you will be filled.
Blessed are you who weep now,
For you will laugh . . .

“But woe to you who are rich,
For you have received your consolation.
Woe to you who are full now,
For you will be hungry.
Woe to you who are laughing now,
For you will mourn and weep.”

If I were to preach on this text, what would I say? As a social worker, I can get excited about this text. In the Kingdom of God, the world is turned upside down. There one finds that the ones who are blessed are the poor, those for whom my colleagues and I are



David Fritz

called to advocate for justice. All those struggles for adequate living wages and quality health care are worth it. All of those visits to shelters and prisons pay dividends. I can smile and raise my fist, because I know that in the Kingdom of God, there is justice after all

I can also be quite alarmed when I read this text, and that's because in the Kingdom of God my world is turned upside down. There one finds that the ones who are cursed are the rich, those on whom my colleagues and I depend for generosity. All of the benefits of exorbitant salaries and diversified portfolios and generous tax breaks are for naught. I can snarl and simply shake my fist at the thought that, in the Kingdom of God, there is justice, after all.

I am alarmed because I am rich. I don't recall the last time I missed a meal (although some may suggest that I consider doing just that). I have never had to sleep in my car, at least not out of necessity. I have not had to ride the subways all night with nowhere to go. Shelters and prisons have been places to work—places I have always been able to leave.

When faced with this text, the problem is not in finding a way to explain away the force of Jesus' words. The problem is that I don't take those words seriously enough.

It is interesting that the epistle reading for the same Sunday is I. Corinthians 15:12-20, in which Paul makes his argument for the resurrection of the dead. Thus, with our selected passages from the New Testament, we are reminded that the same one who taught that the poor are blessed is the same one who was dead and yet lives. Which of these truths is easier to believe?

NACSW BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

NACSW is pleased to announce the final results of its recent Board election. The four candidates who were elected by the membership to serve on NACSW's Board with terms ending in the year 2009 are:

- Kimberly Battle-Walters, Azusa, California
- Dexter Freeman, Houston, Texas
- Jason Pittman, Miami, Florida
- Michael Sherr, Waco, Texas
- Secretary: Patricia Slade, Ancaster, Ontario (Canada)
- Treasurer: Jason Pittman, Miami, Florida

Also, Board officers for 2007 will be as follows:

- President: Bill Raymond, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Vice President: Tenolian Bell, Utica, New York

Please keep each of these newly elected Board members and officers in your prayers for wisdom and guidance.

Tenolian Bell
Vice President

NACSW ANNOUNCES MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR 2007

NACSW membership rates for the year 2007 will be as follows:

- Basic Membership Rate: \$80
- **Two Year** Basic Membership Rate: \$146 - **Save \$14!**
- Student/Retired/Dues Assistance Rate: \$25
- Second Year after Graduation Rate: \$49
- Life Membership Rate: \$1,236

For rates in Canadian dollars, please use the current exchange rate.

<<Note: 2007 rates are set based on the most recent annual US COLA rate available as of July 1, 2006 (4.1%)>>

THE LETTER

You don't know me, but I think I know you. I think I know the pain you are feeling, the battle you are waging in the very depths of your soul. I am writing because I have met the most amazing Man. The most wonderful Being and He knew my name. I don't suppose that would mean anything to you, except for the fact that He knows your name too.

I have walked in your shoes. I can remember nights, many nights fighting a war in my own mind. I didn't have the strength or the desire to seek out this thing they called God. The only peace I knew came from the arms of men who held me close. Arms that were real. Arms that were warm. It didn't much matter that those same arms hurt me. It didn't much matter that the same lips that kissed mine, were the same lips that told me how worthless I was. It only mattered that in the very moment of my loneliness and my pain, those real live arms were there and waiting.

I know I disappointed people. Hell, I disappointed myself. I would wake after an evening in another man's arms and feel that sick, resigned sadness in my belly. I began to think there was no way out. I figured there was something horribly wrong with me. I figured that only other women had that special gift, that special something that brought them out of the cycle of sadness. I knew I didn't have it what it would take. I knew I was bound to know only empty affection and harsh favor. I couldn't imagine anything different, and I wouldn't have believed you if you told me it was possible.

I'd heard of Christians but they'd never given me more than a disapproving look. I wasn't doing what I was supposed to be doing. But what did they know? They didn't know. They didn't know what it was like to live in my body, to know my pain, to live my life. I hated them for judging me. I hated me for judging me.

I don't know how He got through to me. I guess it was a combination of things. He put genuine Christians in my path, He put stories in front of

my face, He made me look into eyes that were filled with love. Kind eyes that I could barely meet because I felt so dirty. How do I tell you of the path He has walked with me? How do I tell you that it isn't just me? That it's you He loves?

I remember reading about the prostitutes in the bible. There are lots of them. I remember thinking with a fear that drenched me in sadness... "I am a prostitute." Maybe I wasn't a prostitute for money, but I was a prostitute for words. I sold my body, my heart, my everything... to men. I sold it hoping that they would love me, affirm me, make me feel something other than lost and alone.

Most of the time they succeeded. I felt complete in their arms. For a moment. When it was through, when the moment was gone, I could barely look them in the face.

So I read about Jesus. And I read about the prostitutes and the other women that were broken. Like Mary Magdalene. She had seven demons that Jesus healed her of. Not only did He take away her demons, He let her be the first one to see Him after He rose from the dead. The first one! The King of Kings chose this broken, damaged, heartbroken woman to be the first to know the glory of that moment. Then there was Gomer. She was a prostitute that God asked a good Christian man to marry. That man loved her. He loved her with everything in him, even after she broke his heart. Even after she betrayed him again and again with other

men. The Bible goes on to say that God loves us the same way. Over and over, no matter how dirty, no matter how broken, no matter how many times we fail. He loves us with God-sized love.

Then there was the Samaritan woman. Married five times! When Jesus met her she was then living with some guy who wasn't even her husband. It turns out in that culture, you couldn't get divorced unless the man initiated it. Five times she was divorced! Five times she was rejected in a heartbreaking way. Yet Jesus chose her as the one to share with. He sat and talked with her at the well. He told her that He could give her what all those men couldn't. He could refresh her soul in a way that no one else ever would.

I didn't get it. The God I thought I knew was different. He didn't love prostitutes. He was a big forbidding presence in the sky. He was ticked off, angry, barely holding His temper at my behavior. I was sure that was true. Almost positive.

I can't explain exactly how He changed my mind. I think maybe He just kept telling me until I believed it. He wasn't angry with me. He wasn't disappointed in the same way my Mom and Dad would be... with looks of dislike or bare tolerance. No. He loved me. He loved me when I was in someone else's arms. His tears mingled with my own when I cried after giving myself away one more time. He wasn't angry, he was heartbroken. He was heartbroken because the God-sized love that He had for me felt my pain. He saw the



NACSW Convention attendees learning the Texas Two-Step. Don't you wish you could have as much fun as they are?

bits of myself that I was giving away and He was longing to get them back. His heart was broken because I was His little girl in the best possible way. In a way that made Him want to protect me and to honor me. Honor me. Who would have ever thought?

Jesus Christ has a heart for the broken. He doesn't much enjoy the snobby and elite. He doesn't like hanging out with the religious and the ones that think they have it all together. He likes hanging out with YOU! He wants you to get to know him. Just by being with Him. No expectations, no pointing fingers, no bolts of lightning. Just you and Him and the quiet of the night. When you whisper His name as you lay on your bed, He will be there. When you call out to Him after one more night of brokenness, He will be there. When you catch a glimpse of a sunset and breathe the thought of Him, He will be there.

He doesn't care about your past. He doesn't care where you've been. All He cares about is being there right now, in the middle of it, with open

arms. I am saying this because I'm someone who has crossed through the darkness. I HAVE BEEN THERE. I know your pain. There is a way out.

The best thing, the very best thing... that all the forces of evil will want to keep you from knowing... is there is joy. I'm not talking the kind of joy that disappears in the morning light. I'm not talking the kind of joy that comes from a bottle, a pill, a cigarette or a pair of arms. I'm talking about the kind of joy that brings out the dimples in your cheeks, that makes you feel like a child again, that makes you dance and sing. Hard to believe. It was hard for me to believe. But it's true. It's true. Believe it! It's true!

Let go, hold on, and keep praying. When you stumble, it's okay. You are not alone. Take one tentative step after another. One baby step at a time. Walking beside His God-sized love you'll find that even baby steps will bring you home.

Editor's note: this story was submitted by Elsa Lynch

HOME STUDY

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costs just \$25 per issue. Members can even access back issues of *Social Work and Christianity* on-line on NACSW's website if they need to earn a number of continuing contact hours in a hurry! Complete instructions for participating in the home study program appear at the back of each issue of SWC starting with the Fall 1999 issue.

Continuing education contact hours earned in this home study program are approved by the Association of Social Work Boards. Most states and provinces will accept these CEUs, but we suggest that you check the local rules in your home state or province for confirmation.

Particularly if you are already reading *Social Work and Christianity*, we encourage you to consider participating in this home study program as a quick and easy way of earning on-going CEUs.

*Rick Chamiec-Case
Executive Director*

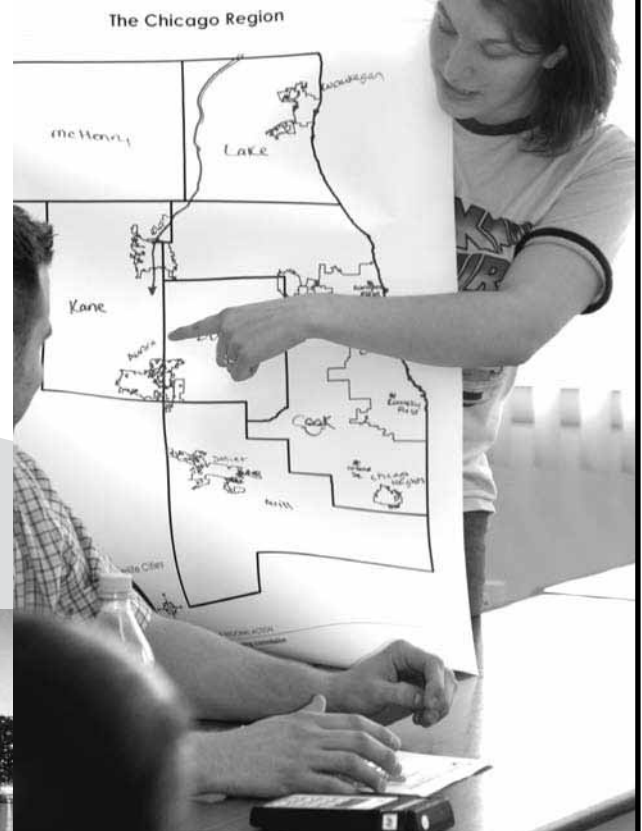
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Speaking Out...

NACSW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SHARE THEIR VIEWS.

I really had a wonderful time (at Convention 2006 in Philadelphia). The talks, workshops and the members I met were really a growth experience for me. It is vital for me to see the intersection of how spirituality contributes to social work. We social workers at times are misunderstood, only seen as the “do gooders” for many living on the edge of society. Let us continue to utilize our skills, knowledge, and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform the lives of our clients and one another. Let us rejoice and support one another during this Thanksgiving season.

James
Brooklyn, NY

I am writing in response to a letter by a reader Marshall in Ohio in the January 2007 edition of Catalyst. I also do not affiliate myself with NASW; I terminated my membership when I joined NACSW because I felt NASW did not leave enough room for disparate voices in their constituency. I have seen that NACSW, most likely because of the leadership of such a calm and fair leader, Rick Chamiec-Case, supports a healthy chorus of members with distinct voices. However, I feel moved to write in defense of the NASW Code of Ethics, particularly on the right to self-determination that the reader claims is “predicated on Satan’s lie.” I see respecting clients’ right to self-determination as congruent with Christian social work. Jesus himself, in Mark 10:21, permits an individual to select his own path when he allows the man with many possessions to make his own choice about selling them and giving the money to the poor. Jesus did not set up an ap-

pointment for the junk collector to arrive at the man’s doorstep nor did Jesus say, “Let me go sell your things and give the money to the poor.” Jesus knows that we all have to make our own choices and will be held accountable for them. I am so grateful that, as a social worker, I have been allowed by clients to walk along with them briefly on their own individual journey and also appreciate the Code of Ethics that helps show me and other ethical social workers how to avoid using the power in our position to take choice away from a client. We should certainly work to support clients in making right choices whether in the micro practice or in advocacy where we “engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully.” (Section 6.04(a) of the Code of Ethics).

Diane
Mansfield, Massachusetts

I just felt compelled to write. I am not a social worker. I am the Mission Director at Catholic Charities in Peoria. My MA is in theology and I am involved in bereavement ministry. This was a fabulous workshop – I was in awe of how beautifully Theresa Blakeley articulated her experience while contextualizing it in sociological theories to train others to help traumatized clients. Thank you for offering this workshop.

Barb
West Peoria, IL

Drawn

*The Love of God
what tint, which hue?
Clear, sparkling, reflections dancing
on azure sea,
or fragile and fleeting rainbow arc of light.*

*Maybe white like angels’ wings
bright, clean and pure.*

*Background for so many things.
Vacant scroll ready to absorb color.
Empty flour, pure sugar, waiting for us to
dump our spices in.
White beyond the senses, and
bleach of death.*

*Maybe blue,
a standard for honor and truth.*

*Consistency you can invest your entire soul
Peaceful backdrop, heavens and oceans,
to challenge and nourish.
Rain, seas, and rivers so alive.*

*His blue is flowers,
sapphires, blueberries, sky.
The colors of His chosen
and the depth that rules the night.*

*Man’s blue is uniforms,
first prize ribbons, flags, and
pompous awards
Stars salted in their brilliance
across the deep blue sky.
Blue dances with white, holds it steady.
Embraces it lovingly, attracted to the shine.
Which is the dominant?*

*Were you to grasp the Painter’s will,
would you seize on the brighter
or that which gives it energy and life?*

*Be drawn in the light.
Soaring through clouds and mist.
With His grace and your desire
He’ll wrap you tightly
And provide a gentle hand to hold.*

Marty Kooistra
April 3, 2005

Pursuing Social Justice

A Conference for Christian Social Work Students

Friday, October 12, 2007 at 10:00am—

Saturday, October 13, 2007 at 4:00pm

Trinity Christian College

Palos Heights, Illinois

Attend a special conference designed just for Christian social work students! Registration is only \$75 and includes:

- Tours of Chicago Social Service Agencies
- Opportunities to Explore Chicago with a City Scavenger Hunt & Free Time Downtown
- Networking Opportunities
- Breakout Sessions in Four Topic Areas: Social Justice; Violence in the Home; Health Care; & Aging
- Brown Bag Lunch Sessions on Applying to Graduate Schools, Interviewing, Fields of Social Work Practice, and Becoming a Professional
- Present your Scholarship During a Poster Presentation Event (see Call for Poster Presentations below)
- Three Meals during the Conference: Lunch on Friday & Breakfast & Lunch on Saturday

Overnight accommodations are available at a nearby hotel. Limited free housing on campus with shower facilities is available. Please contact Mackenzi Huyser at Mackenzi.Huyser@trnty.edu for more information or with questions.

Call for Poster Presentations

Submit a proposal to present a poster presentation at the Social Work Student Conference. Submissions might include past group or capstone projects, research papers, or field education projects. Your submission will be reviewed by a team of social work educators, and all those accepted will be invited to display and discuss their posters during a special time at the Conference. This is a great opportunity to share your scholarship with other students and sharpen your presentation skills!

Deadline for Submissions: April 30, 2007

Presenter Notification: May 31, 2007

Submit your poster presentation proposals online at www.nacsw.org. Please contact Laura Zumdahl at Laura.Zumdahl@trnty.edu with any questions.

Watch for More Details & Register at
www.nacsw.org

Co-Sponsored by
Trinity Christian College Department of Social Work &
The North American Association of Christians in Social Work

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

NACSW CONVENTION 2008

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 7-10, 2008

NACSW invites you to submit a proposal for a workshop proposal for its Convention 2008 in Orlando, FL. Of particular interest are proposals that explore the integration of faith and social work/social welfare.

Proposals may be submitted for the following tracks:

- **Social Work Administration and Policy:** Includes but is not limited to management of organizations, grant writing, budgeting, and social work policy and planning.
- **Community Organizing and Development:** Includes but is not limited to assets-based community development, community-oriented interventions, faith-based community collaborations, and advocacy.
- **Direct Practice:** Includes but is not limited to case management, counseling, pastoral care, and work with individuals, families or groups.
- **Faith of the Social Worker:** Includes but is not limited to calling and vocation, nurture of the social worker's faith, ethics of faith and client relationships, and client's spiritual formation.
- **Social Justice & Human Dignity and Worth:** Includes but is not limited to social justice, human rights, human trafficking, international social work and aid, violence, child labor, and war.
- **Social Work Education:** Includes but is not limited to teaching social work, accreditation issues, educational policy, and integrating faith and spirituality into the curriculum.

For additional information about how to submit a proposal, you can either go to <http://www.nacsw.org/Convention/Call2008.htm> on NACSW's website, or contact the NACSW office at: info@nacsw.org, or call tollfree at 888-426-4712.

Please note that proposal submissions are due by July 15, 2007 (this is a firm deadline).

All proposals are peer reviewed. Final decisions will be made and submitters notified in August, 2007. Only a limited number of proposals can be selected.

FORTHCOMING SPECIAL ISSUE OF SOCIAL WORK AND CHRISTIANITY:

CANADIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIAL WORK

Topic: Canadian Contributions to
Christianity and Social Work

Date: 2008

Guest Editor: John Graham

Deadline for Paper Submission:
July 30, 2007

The 2008 special issue of *Social Work and Christianity* will focus Canadian contributions to Christianity and social work. Topics could include anything that captures a distinctly Canadian approach to Christianity and social work and/or approaches to Christianity and social work within Canada, and/or examples of approaches to any aspect of Christianity from a Canadian perspective.

Prospective authors are welcome to contact the special edition editor by email (jrgraham@ucalgary.ca) to discuss ideas for paper submissions. The deadline for all paper submissions is July 30, 2007. The special edition will appear in 2008.

Articles submitted to SWC should begin with a title page, including the author's name, address, phone number, email address, abstract of no more than 200 words, a list of key words, and if the author would like the manuscript to be peer-reviewed. Only the



John Graham

title should be repeated on the first page of the text after the title page. The article text should be double-spaced and is limited to approximately 20-25 pages, including all references and appendices. Please use the American Psychological Association Style Manual format (5th edition) for in-text references and reference lists.

Please submit manuscripts via email in MS Word by July 30, 2007 to John Graham, special edition co-editor, at jrgraham@ucalgary.ca, or mail your manuscript on a CD or computer disk to: John Graham, Special Issue Editor; University of Calgary, Social Work Dept.; 2500 University Dr NW; Calgary, AB T2N 1N4.

NEW NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY: SPIRITUALITY AND AGING LISTSERV

All are invited to participate in a new networking opportunity for NACSW members: the Spirituality and Aging Listserv. NACSW is establishing this new service



Christine Kessen

in response to requests from participants in the Spirituality and Aging Discussion Group that met at the NACSW Conference in Philadelphia last October. Suggested topics include resources and materials, available grants, useful literature, the latest innovations, possible collaborative projects, and the integration of faith and practice. Share your knowledge and experiences with interested colleagues! Join the listserv by contacting NACSW at info@nacs.org, or contact me at Kessen@Marywood.edu if you have any additional questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Christine Kessen
Spirituality and Aging
Listserv Coordinator

REVIEWING BOOKS FOR SOCIAL WORK AND CHRISTIANITY

Are you interested in reviewing books for Social Work and Christianity? If so, you can learn of books available for review by subscribing to a NACSW listserv. Book review editor Terry Wolfer sends information about books available for review to NACSW's general and educator listservs.

If you wish to be included in these emails, you can subscribe to one of the Association's listservs by going to <http://www.nacs.org/Listservs.html> on NACSW's website. You may also submit an unsolicited book review for a recent book of interest to Christians in social work for possible publication at any time.



NACSW EDUCATORS CALENDAR

- **Annual Dinner at CSWE-APM:** At the Annual Program Meeting of CSWE, October 27–30, 2007 in San Francisco, CA
- **Annual Forum for Christian Social Work Educators:** At NACSW's Convention 2008, Feb. 7–10, 2008 in Orlando, Florida
- **Annual Dinner at BPD:** At the Annual Conference of BPD, March 5–9, 2008, Dustin, Florida

Ed Kuhlmann
610.341.5878

Details forthcoming.
For further information,
contact:

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New York City Area	David Fritz	212.298.5105
North Carolina (Central)	Ken Smith	919.258-5437 Ext. 16
North Carolina (South)	Meloni Hinnant	704.299.1191
Ohio	Stephen Toth	614.847.9305
Pennsylvania (Eastern)	Gary Deckert	215.787.2978
Tennessee (Eastern)	Reba Terry	423.472.4414
Tennessee (Western)	Stevie Ray	901.545.8069
Texas (Southeast)	Elaine Robinson	409.860-3722
Texas (Central)	Vicki Northern	254.710.4417
Texas (North)/Southern OK	Dee Lambert	940.723.8420
Virginia	Charles Ruge	757.898.0096
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For email addresses and additional chapter information, please see NACSW's chapter webpage at: <http://www.nacsw.org/chaplist.html> or contact the NACSW office.

LISTSERV INFORMATION

NACSW invites you to subscribe to one or more of its Internet mailing lists or "listservs," which enable NACSW members to easily connect with each other "across the miles" on topics of special interest to Christians in social work. Currently, there are nine listservs available to members:

1. nacsw-l (general topics)	To subscribe, visit: http://mail.cedarville.edu/mailman/listinfo/nacsw-l
2. nacsw-intl (international social work topics)	To subscribe, visit: http://mail.cedarville.edu/mailman/listinfo/nacsw-intl
3. nacsw-educators (educators' topics)	To subscribe, visit: http://mail.cedarville.edu/mailman/listinfo/nacsw-educators
4. nacsw-ethics (religion and ethics topics)	To subscribe, visit: http://mail.cedarville.edu/mailman/listinfo/nacsw-ethics
5. nacsw-addictions (addictions topics)	To subscribe, visit: http://mail.cedarville.edu/mailman/listinfo/nacsw-addictions
6. nacsw-Calif (CA member communications)	To subscribe, visit: http://mail.cedarville.edu/mailman/listinfo/nacsw-calif
7. nacsw-admin (NACSW administration)	To subscribe, visit: http://mail.cedarville.edu/mailman/listinfo/nacsw-admin
8. nacsw-students (student members)	To subscribe, visit: http://mail.cedarville.edu/mailman/listinfo/nacsw-students
9. nacsw-aging (aging and spirituality)	To subscribe, visit: http://mail.cedarville.edu/mailman/listinfo/nacsw-aging

NACSW MISSION

NACSW supports the integration of Christian faith and professional social work practice in the lives of its members, the profession and the church, promoting love and justice in social service and social reform.

Its goals include:

- *Supporting and encouraging members in the integration of Christian faith and professional practice through fellowship, education, and service opportunities.*
- *Articulating an informed Christian voice on social welfare practices and policies to the social work profession*
- *Providing professional understanding and help for the social ministry of the church*
- *Promoting social welfare services and policies in society which bring about greater justice and meet basic human needs*

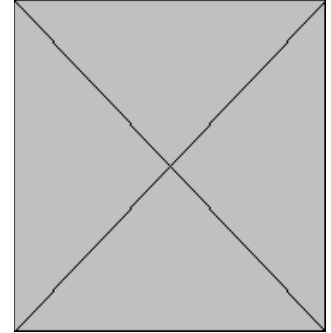
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Visit NACSW's website,
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toll-free at
888-426-4712

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MEMBER INTEREST AND COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS GROUPS

Member interest groups are officially recognized NACSW groups that promote discussion, share information, and pool resources related to topics of special interest to NACSW members. However, NACSW's recognition of member interest groups is not meant to imply endorsement of group members' views or actions taken by the group on any particular issue.

Community of Scholars groups are comprised of NACSW members and friends with special interest and expertise in a given topic with a commitment to making a tangible contribution to scholarship in that area.

Current Member Interest Groups

Congregational Social Work
International Social Work
Religion and Social Work Ethics
Social Work Education

Community of Scholars Groups

Aging and Faith/Spirituality
International Social Work in Faith-Based Settings

Leader

Vicki Northern
Mark Rodgers
David Fritz
Ed Kuhlmann

Leader

Christine Kessen
Mark Rodgers

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kuhlmann@eastern.edu; 610.341.5878

Contact Info

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Contact NACSW - info@nacsw.org

NACSW, P.O. Box 121, Botsford, CT 06404-0121

Change Service Requested

A friendly reminder to contact NACSW when you move to a new address so that you will receive your membership materials as quickly as possible.

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