

# Prescience, Prophecy, and Prayer

## Alan Keith-Lucas Lecture

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# The call

NACSW, a home for those of us who love Christ and are called to this profession, is also home within Christianity for a variety of perspectives, opinions, and deeply held convictions that threaten uniformity but do not have to threaten unity.

# Welcome and Introduction



# Faith and Practice-

- “What difference does being a Christian make to social work practice?” (AKL, L-19c)
- Being a Christian in social work practice does not mean we can place ourselves in the position of God. We are instructed to love, not to judge. ?” (AKL, L-19c)
- One Model
  - Faith/Religion/Spirituality/Worldview of the client
  - Faith/Religion/Spirituality/Worldview of the social worker
  - Faith/Religion/Spirituality/Worldview of the organizational context
    - Harris, Yancey, Myers, 2016

# AKL and NACSW

- Personal History
- Contributions to NACSW
  - Intellectual
  - Inspirational

Reality, Empathy, and Support

# Reality, empathy, and support in child welfare

- Keith said it this way:
- “Helping people to find their own way is better than controlling them, however subtly” (Harris, 2010, p. 297).

# Applications: Challenges and Changes

- Child Welfare and Work with Parents
- Programming
- Sin Questions (Reality, Empathy, and Support)
  - The “isms”

# Reality, empathy, and support: Racism

Given what is, i.e. my complicity in racism and my benefitting from racist structures and from white privilege, what do I do now? How do I own it, stop it, and link arms with my brothers and sisters in Christ and do my part of the work to change myself and it?

# Prophetically and Prayerfully Forward

- Why Prescience?
- Summary and Application
- NACSW examples and leadership
- So What? Concluding...

# Prescient

- “What we need to do is help people make sense of the world, see their options, make their decisions, experience something other than censure and defeat. I call it, myself, the co-planning model, and it puts us in quite a different relationship to those we serve. We are no longer the good people, the experts, the treaters, the authority, but the partners, the colleagues, of those we serve” (Keith-Lucas, nd., L-9).

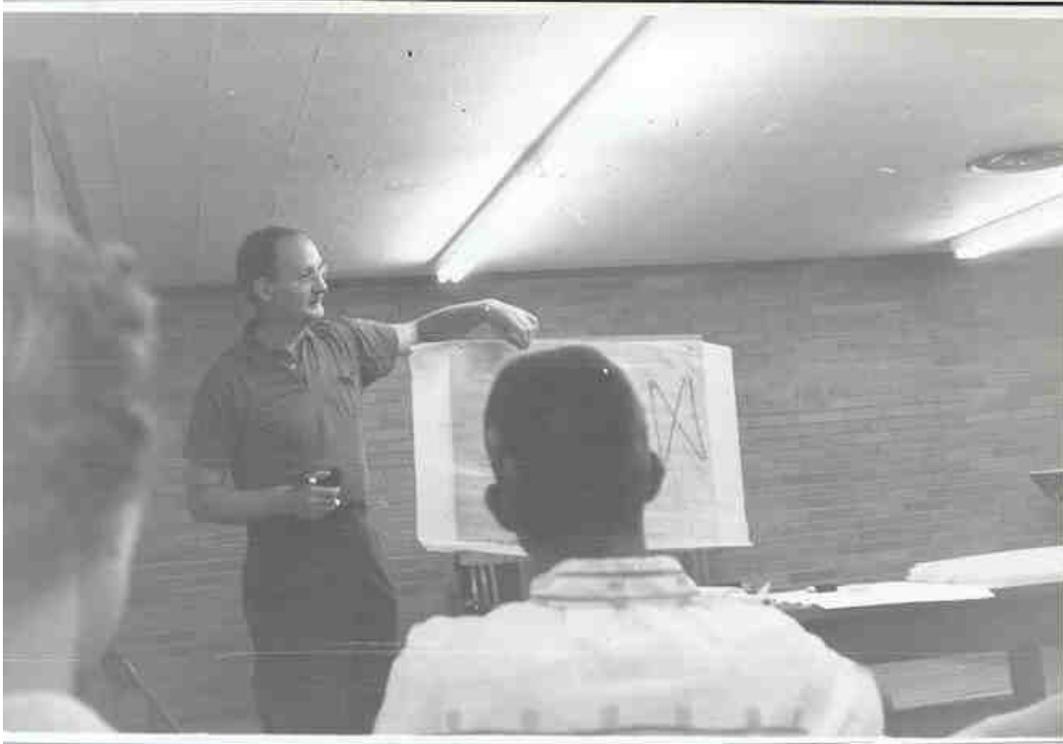
# Prophetic

“We come not to tell what to do, but to clarify the options, to help the confused come to decisions. To give them the sort of experience that may make sense to them.” (Keith-Lucas, *Different Experience*, pp. 10-11).

# Prayer

Part of our reality is access to higher power, to the power of the Creator. Keith would answer that part of our reality is that prayer changes things. Prayer changes our hearts, connects us to the heart of God, changes reality, and inspires empathy and enables support.

# Prescience, Prophecy, and Prayer Questions, Discussion, and Conclusion



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