

## NACSW Convention 2014 in Annapolis!

The Convention 2014 Planning Committee is pleased to announce several exciting keynote speakers scheduled for our annual convention from November 6-9, 2014 in Annapolis, MD.

**Shane Claiborne** will be the opening speaker on Thursday evening, November 6th. His presentation, entitled “*Irresistible Revolution: A*

*Quest to Be Ordinary Radicals*” sketches out a vision of “ordinary” Christians in social work ready to change the world with little acts of love. Shane will share stories from his book and personal journey. Shane Claiborne is the visional leader of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia that has helped birth and connect radical faith communities around the world. He is a graduate of Eastern University, did graduate work at Princeton Seminary, and received an Honorary Doctorate from Eastern.

**Dr. James Vanderwoerd** will be this year’s Alan Keith-Lucas lecturer on Friday



Shane Claiborne



Jim Vanderwoerd



Simone Campbell

morning, November 7th. He will be presenting “*All Things New: Neo-Calvinist Groundings for Social Work*,” which will provide an overview of Reformed Christianity, specifically within the neo-Calvinist tradition, and its contribution to social work and social welfare. Jim is currently Professor of Social Work at Re-

deemer University College in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He has worked as a practitioner and educator in human and social services for more than thirty years. He completed his Master of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University, and completed his PhD in Social Welfare at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Sister Simone Campbell** will be the evening banquet speaker on Saturday, November 8th. Her presentation, entitled, “*Nuns on the Bus: The War on Poverty*,” will look at the governmental responsibility of ensuring that everyone has the

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## NACSW’s April Audio Conference Workshop

NACSW is pleased to announce that it will be offering its next audio conference workshop entitled “Maxims for Management: Manifesting Christian Principles as Supervisors, Managers and Administrators” on Monday, April 28th from 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm Eastern Daylight Savings Time. This audio conference workshop will be presented by Dr. Frank Raymond, Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina.

Managers at all levels in human service organizations, both secular and church-related, must be able to apply appropriate

administrative principles in carrying out their roles. Managers who are Christians should strive to make sure the administrative principles they employ reflect the values of their faith. This workshop will identify a number of “maxims for management,” or fundamental administrative principles that embody Christian values, and can guide the day-to-day performance of human service managers at all levels.

Frank B. Raymond is Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina. From 1959 until 1965, Dr. Raymond served as pastor of

Hillcrest Baptist church in Danville, Virginia. During his social work career he has worked in public welfare, at the V.A. Hospital, the Federal Probation Office, the Department of Psychiatry at Tulane Medical School, and the Louisiana Narcotics Rehabilitation Commission. In 1972 he began service as a professor of social work in the College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina, and served as Dean of this college from 1980 until his retirement in 2002. Dr. Raymond has published five books related to administration, technology and social work education, as

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# NACSW Board Appointments

NACSW is pleased to announce that Andrew Edwards from Cleveland, OH, and Allison Tan from Joliet, Illinois have been appointed by NACSW's Board of Directors for three year terms effective January 1st, 2014 to increase the Board's diversity with regard to age and ethnic representation.



Karen Helder

Please keep these newly appointed Board members in your prayers for wisdom and guidance.

Karen Helder  
Vice President

## CATALYST

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*Catalyst* is published four times a year for members of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work. The purpose of *Catalyst* is to communicate with the NACSW membership about association news, events, activities and developments. It includes statements of opinion by a variety of members and friends, which do not necessarily represent the views 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. *Catalyst* articles may be copied or reproduced for personal use, but appropriate credit to *Catalyst* should appear on all copies made.

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## Audio Conference

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well as over 200 book chapters and journal articles in areas such as management, program evaluation, technology, social work education, educational administration, corrections, health care, and child abuse.

Audio conferences have been designed so that any person or group can participate simply by calling a telephone number provided by NACSW from any telephone in the US or Canada. In addition, interested participants may simultaneously log into these sessions via their computers to follow the presenter's PowerPoint presentation on-line, see the presenter on screen, and engage in interactive chat during the session. A couple of days after you register for this session, NACSW will email you the conference phone number as well as instructions on how to log into this session. If you would prefer to just call in (and not use your computer), we will make a PowerPoint file available to you prior to the session.

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.

Current NACSW members and all staff working for NACSW organizational members may participate in this audio conference at no cost. Friends of NACSW may participate in this session for just \$26 (or \$16 for fulltime students). Participants are eligible to earn 1.25 continuing education contact hours approved by the Association of Social Work Boards (also at no cost for NACSW members) by receiving a score of 80% or better on a short twelve-question quiz based on the material covered in the conference.

We hope you are able to join us on April 28th for this important audio conference workshop – we encourage you to register today!



Frank Raymond

## Sharing Photos from Convention 2013 in Atlanta, GA

For those of you who weren't able to join us for Convention 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia from October 17-20 (we missed you!), we thought we would share just a few of our favorite photos taken during the convention by NACSW Board member Amy-Lynne Hilderbrand.

To view a collection of photos we have put together from our conventions over the past few years, you can go to either NACSW's Facebook Fan page at [www.nacsw.org/facebookpage](http://www.nacsw.org/facebookpage), or NACSW's Flickr account at: [www.flickr.com/photos/nacsw](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nacsw).

We hope these photos whet your appetite for joining us for Convention 2014 in Annapolis from November 6-9. See you in Annapolis!



# Two New Important Areas of Growth for NACSW

In recent months, NACSW has been approached by two different Christian associations to provide support and organizational structure to enable them to carry on their work into the future. NACSW has been in on-going conversation with the leadership of both of these associations to discover the best way to integrate their identities, visions, resources, and members into the on-going work and mission of our association. These represent ambitious and exciting opportunities and challenges for NACSW in the months ahead!



Rick Chamiec-Case

**IAASW:** The first association that has been in conversation with NACSW is the International Association of Adventist Social Workers (IAASW). Members of IAASW are professional social workers and others who are committed to educating, organizing and empowering laity and leaders to effectively minister to the needs of the Adventist church, to provide resources that help church leaders address social problems in their congregations, and to stimulate new ideas and practices from a uniquely Adventist perspective. You can

find out more about IAASW by going to: <http://www.iaasw.org>.

Currently we are exploring with IAASW the possibility of NACSW creating an Adventist member interest group that we would support in some of the following ways:

- Enable members of IAASW to become members of and receive full membership benefits of NACSW, as well as participate (at no additional cost) in this new NACSW member interest group, which would offer some of the activities and benefits previously offered by IAASW
- Facilitate communication for members of this new member interest group by maintaining a group listserv, and publishing periodic articles in *Catalyst* and blog posts in *Shared Grace* written from an Adventist perspective
- Create and maintain webpages that would integrate information from the current IAASW website into NACSW's website, and work together with representatives of the IAASW to update and provide new information to these pages on a regular basis
- Provide the opportunity for members of this new member interest group to meet and/or sponsor trainings before, during, and/or after the annual NACSW convention
- Provide consultation and support to assist this new member interest group's

development of student chapters at interested Adventist colleges and universities

**CSCO:** The other association that has approached NACSW is Christians Supporting Community Organizing (CSCO). The mission of CSCO has been to motivate, enable and support churches and pastors of Evangelical, Holiness and Pentecostal traditions to become active members of regionally- and nationally-networked congregation-based community organizations in their city. You can find out more about CSCO by going to: <http://www.cscoweb.org>.

NACSW is also exploring with CSCO the possibility of creating a new NACSW member interest group focused on community organizing and development as a critical strategy for serving and supporting our communities. NACSW would support this new member interest group in some of the following ways:

- Facilitate communication for members of this new member interest group by developing a group listserv, as well as encouraging periodic articles in *Catalyst* and blog posts in *Shared Grace* written from a community organizing/development perspective
- Create and maintain webpages on NACSW's website that incorporate the wealth of information, materials and resources developed by CSCO over the

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## Convention

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capacity to eat. Sister Simone is Executive Director of NETWORK in Washington, DC. She is a religious leader, attorney and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. She has also served as the general director of her religious community, the Sisters of Social Service. Simone Campbell received a bachelor's degree from Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles, and a doctorate in law from the University of California, Davis.

NACSW also offers a variety of opportunities for faith-based organizations and programs to have a vital presence at NACSW's Convention 2014. Several of these opportunities include:

1. *Exhibiting:* Reserve exhibit space in our convention exhibit hall for just \$360 if you are a non-profit, or \$415 if a for-profit — and 50% off these rates if you are a current organizational member of NACSW!

2. *Advertising:* For a low cost of just \$110, we will “stuff” your brochure or some other promotional item in a convention bag that all participants will receive at the registration desk.

3. *Event Sponsorship:* Your organization can make a major contribution and/or sponsor a specific convention event — in exchange for enhanced visibility with our 350+convention participants.

You will find additional detailed information forms for all three of these promotional options by visiting our website at [www.nacsw.org](http://www.nacsw.org).

And, while you are in the Annapolis area attending the NACSW conference, there is a great deal to do in the city known as the “Athens of America.” The convention will be held at the Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel Annapolis, which is a short distance from the US Naval Academy, Maryland State Capital and the historic waterfront district. For more information about area attractions, check out [downtownannapolis.org](http://downtownannapolis.org).

As you can see, NACSW's Convention 2014 promises to have something for just about everyone. We invite you to join other Christians in social work and social services from all over the US and Canada for an exciting three and a half days together in Annapolis in November — you don't want to miss it!

## PRAYER CORNER

### Infusion

During my brief time in the social work profession, I've often thought

about my role as a social worker, and how it fits in with my roles as a Christian, wife, mother, family member, friend, colleague, etc. In response, I chose my 2014 word of the year



Holly Oxhandler

to be "infusion," because: 1) compartmentalizing roles is absolutely exhausting, and I'd like to see each role infused into a more whole me; 2) I want to fully soak up the sweets and spices of life placed in my path, with proper boundaries (like a tea bag!), allowing them to change me in the way they were designed to; and 3) I want to dive into the world around me and let God pull out aspects of me that leaves the day a bit sweeter for those around me. So far, this word has been a pretty good choice and leads me to share a recent revelation regarding my roles as a social worker and a Christian.

Last week, our pastor spoke about Colossians 3:1-17 (NIV), and I found myself thinking about my sisters and brothers in social work and related helping professions. Just as many of us experienced a change or newness within us when we chose the path of self-identifying as Christian, I would imagine many of us also felt this when choosing the path of social work. On the first day of my MSW program, one of my professors said, "You will be completely changed in this program... and you will begin to see life completely differently. You'll no longer laugh at what used to be funny. You'll understand pain in a deeper way, and you'll feel it in a different way. You may even lose friendships as you grow in the coming months." We were about to be immersed in a training program that would mold us into completely different people, just as Paul talked about in Colossians 3. With a strengths-based perspective, we were taught to find the goodness in each situation and client (while remaining grounded in reality and

maintaining boundaries), to use evidence-based tools to effectively help others, and to have a softened heart for empathy.

What really jumped out during last week's service were verses 12-14, when Paul advised to "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience...bear with each other and forgive one another...And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." What a sweet way to remind us of how to live as Christ did.

Paul continues in verse 15: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." This peace reminds me of the quietness that allows us to listen for discernment on when to act, when to wait, and through it all, the precise words of wisdom to share. As humans, we all desire a sense of peace within our hearts; but as social workers, being the beacon of light for so many, having peace in our hearts is critical.

Finally, Paul tells us to be thankful. Gratitude and thankfulness is written all over the Bible, and it has been a major practice in my life. It's not about having an "attitude of gratitude" (a catchy phrase you may have heard), but rather, having an intentional, mindful, spirit-filled, whole-

hearted practice of acknowledging the goodness around us that we did very little, if anything, to deserve. From this, we may develop a positive attitude and experience joy, but gratitude and thankfulness is a practice.

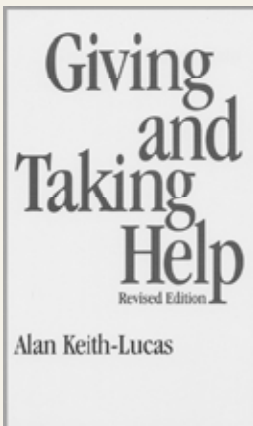
So my prayer for each of you this month is that you see the work you do with a renewed sense. I pray you "rid yourselves of... anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language"(Colossians 3:8) if you struggle with them, to "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience"(Colossians 3:12) so that you may be a source of light for someone, and to really pay attention to the peace in your heart. Most importantly, I pray that you create a deeper practice of gratitude. Meditate on how you are practicing gratitude currently (is it just for tangible gifts, or the opportunity to wake up?) and consider how you can deepen your practice. Finally, I pray that in this process, you become such a strong source of compassion, peace, joy, and patience for others, that you unknowingly inspire someone else to be a source of compassion, peace, joy, and patience for those in their life, and so on... just as Christ did for us.

Holly Oxhandler, MSW, PhD Candidate

## PUBLICATION AVAILABLE FROM NACSW

### *GIVING AND TAKING HELP (REVISED EDITION)*

Alan Keith-Lucas. (1994). Botsford CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work. \$20.25 (\$16.25 for NACSW members or orders of 10 or more).



Alan Keith-Lucas' *Giving and Taking Help*, first published in 1972, has become a classic in the social work literature on the helping relationship. *Giving and Taking Help* is a uniquely clear, straightforward, sensible, and wise examination of what is involved in the helping process—the giving and taking of help. It reflects on perennial issues and themes yet is grounded in highly practice-based and pragmatic realities. It respects both the potential and limitations of social science in understanding the nature of persons and the helping process. It does not shy away from confronting issues of values, ethics, and world views. It is at the same time profoundly personal yet reaching the theoretical and generalizable. It has a point of view.

# Newest Trainings Added to NACSW's Online Continuing Education Program

NACSW is pleased to announce that since the last issue of *Catalyst*, we have added several new trainings to our online continuing education program at [www.nacsw.org/CEU](http://www.nacsw.org/CEU).

New trainings recently added include the following:

**A Theological Perspective on Immigration for Christian Social Workers;** *Stephanie Spandl*; video-based training; 1.25 CEUs – Immigration is currently at the forefront of national debate. Immigration policy is a complex matter that deeply and personally affects families and communities and requires both justice and compassion. How are we as social workers to respond to this issue at our time? This workshop explores the international, political, and social context of immigration today, scriptural and theological foundations to guide our response and current policies and practices that invite response. Resources for further prayer, reflection and education are also made available.

**Confidentiality: Why, Who, Where, and How;** *Helen Harris*; video-based training; .75 CEUs – This ethics training focuses on principles of privacy and confidentiality for a small agency largely staffed by volunteers to assist older adults with food sufficiency. Principles of confidentiality, motivations for respecting the information of others, and methods for protection of client information are the primary topics.

**Ethical Implications of Living with DSM 5;** *Jim Ellor*; video-based training; 1.0 CEUs – In this video-based training, Dr. Jim Ellor from Baylor University explores the values and ethics underlying the DSM 5. He begins by outlining the history of the DSM series, and highlighting some of the changes introduced in the latest version of this diagnostic manual. The remainder of the workshop focuses on four key questions of ethics for and the implications of living with the DSM 5.

**Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind: Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy** *Erma Ballenger*; video-based training; 1.25 CEUs – This training provides an overview of the theory and primary purpose of Rational Emotive Be-



havior Therapy (REBT) and key considerations for applying the Situational A-B-C-D-E Model of REBT. This model has been highly effective in helping individuals become less disturbed emotionally, behaviorally and cognitively and more functional by changing the way they think about self, others and the world. This session will discuss unhealthy negative emotions (UNEs) and healthy negative emotions (HNEs) as well as illustrating each phase of the Situation A-B-C-D-E Model of REBT in renewing the mind.

**Social Work Ethics and the Challenge of Biotechnology;** *Bob Zylstra*; video-based training; 1.0 CEUs – Advances in biotechnology have led to increasingly technical, and controversial, issues in health care. From DNR decisions to assisted suicide, Christian social workers need to be familiar with the ethical concerns, challenges and opportunities associated with medical ethics in order to assist their clients in making reasoned, morally grounded decisions.

**Caring for Combat Veterans with PTSD at the End of Life;** *Janet Knowlton*; video-based training; 1.25 CEUs – This presentation explores the unique challenges associated with working with combat veterans from different war periods at the end of life. Military culture and the extent of combat exposure, as well as

a veteran's faith, have an effect on how a veteran faces their "final battle." Treatment modalities for engaging combat veterans in end of life care will be discussed.

**Resiliency or Recovery: Helping Individuals Develop Resiliency Skills;** *Angela Gaddis*; video-based training; 1.0 CEUs – This workshop is designed to teach skills to clinicians and non-clinicians working with children and adults experiencing traumatic stress. It focuses on factors influencing resilience from a systems perspective, and shows how to use the strengths perspective to assist individuals restore balance to the body and mind after traumatic experiences.

**Good Grief: Interventions for Supporting Bereaved Children and Adolescents;** *Erica Serrine*; video-based training; 1.0 CEUs – A child's cognitive, behavioral, spiritual, and psychosocial functioning is greatly impacted by the illness or death of a loved one. This workshop explores examples of developmentally appropriate grief reactions, clinical interventions, memorialization techniques, and methods for explaining sensitive topics such as suicide and remarriage following the death of a parent.

Online continuing education through NACSW offers easy, "on-demand" access to a wide array of high quality training options sensitive to the thoughtful integration of faith and practice accessible via computer or mobile device. All trainings included in this program provide CEUs accredited by the Association of Social Work Boards.

NACSW's online continuing education program offers high-quality trainings in several different formats including video-based trainings, audio-based trainings, text-based trainings and virtual study groups, a more *interactive* approach to small group, online continuing education.

On-line trainings cost between \$15-\$20 per CEU hour. Members of NACSW with receive a 20% discount on all courses, and additional discounts are available for alumni of program partners (<http://www.nacsw.org/CEUPartners.htm>) as well.

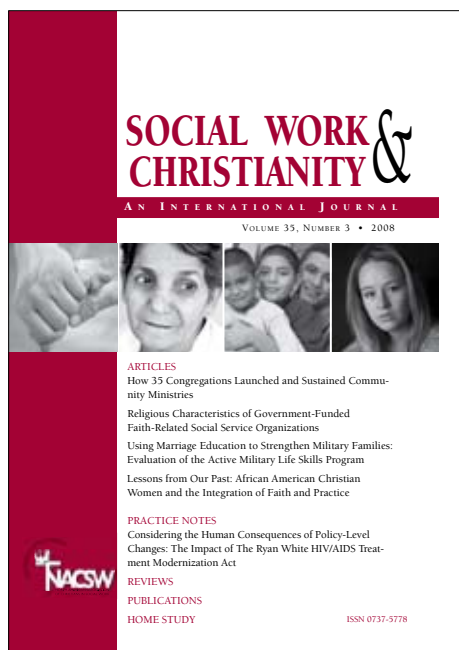
For a full catalog listing, go to: [www.nacsw.org/CEU](http://www.nacsw.org/CEU)!

# Moving Primarily to Online Copies of *Social Work and Christianity*

You might recall that last spring NACSW invited its members to participate in a survey asking for feedback about whether or not we should discontinue the current practice of printing and mailing out hard copies of our newsletter, *Catalyst* – in favor of moving primarily to an on-line version of *Catalyst* for its members. Out of the approximately 250 members who participated in this survey, 81% indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement:

*I personally support NACSW discontinuing the practice of printing and mailing out hard copies of its quarterly newsletter, Catalyst, and instead beginning to only make issues available on-line via NACSW's website.*

Based on this feedback from the membership to our survey, NACSW's Board of Directors adopted a policy whereby **only NACSW members who contacted the office to specifically request hard cop-**



**ies of *Catalyst* would receive *Catalyst* in hard copy format starting with the**

July, 2013 issue. This made it possible for NACSW members who wanted a hard copy of *Catalyst* to continue receiving one upon request, but set as the “default” option that NACSW members would receive a link via email to an electronic copy of each new issue of *Catalyst* when it came out each quarter rather than automatically receiving a hard copy through the mail.

This “experiment” has seemed to work out well thus far. As of the writing of this issue of *Catalyst*, only about 20 of NACSW’s 1,600 members have requested to receive hard copies of *Catalyst*, and NACSW has been able to invest the funds it saves in *Catalyst* printing and postage costs to help grow other valuable programs, like NACSW’s online CEU trainings.

Because this arrangement with *Catalyst* has worked out so well thus far, at its Oc-

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## GENEROUS DONORS TO NACSW

NACSW wants to say “thank-you” to the many generous donors who through their financial contributions have helped further NACSW’s mission “to equip its members to integrate Christian faith and professional social work practice:”

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## DIVERSITY COLUMN: THE INTERSECTION OF RACE AND FAITH

### Having the Courage of Joshua: Overcoming Personal Barriers to Black Church Outreach

I am fortunate enough to teach an elective course focused on religion at a prominent state university in Connecticut. One of the assignments for the course requires students to attend a worship service at three different churches throughout the semester and present about their experiences to the class. This week a student asked, in a typically roundabout manner, whether I thought she would be viewed suspiciously and would be unwelcome at any of the services. She said this because she is white and the congregations the students have to visit are predominantly Black. As the only non-Black student in the class, she worried that she would be uncomfortable. Her focus was on how she would feel in the space of the “other.” Her classmates shared that her concern is one they have to face every day *except* Sunday, even in their own university.



Kimberly Hardy

My student’s concern is not new to this class nor is it uncommon for many white

people in general. However, as social workers and Christians, we are called on many levels to care for those who have so little, to assist those in their time of need, and to love those whom society has forsaken. We feed, clothe, shelter and heal in the name of God and in accordance with our professional Code of Ethics. These are noble aims and no other profession has these aims at its core in the same way as ours equipping us to render service across a diversity of populations wrestling with a variety of overwhelming challenges.

Yet some among us face trepidation and fear rejection when considering outreach to members of our own Christian family whose faces do not resemble our own. The Black Church, in particular, has had very little outreach from the social work profession despite the deep need for the services and support that professional social workers can provide. The Black Church continues to be the most important institution in the broader African-American community offering both spiritual and social support during times of crisis and they make a way out of no way by rendering service through the benevolence of well-intentioned congregants and providing resources drawn from the tithes and offerings of those who have just a little more to give. Black Churches in low-income communities have been de facto social service

agencies for generations – doing the work of God on Sunday morning and the work of the social worker on Monday morning.

As Christian social workers, we can no longer cede this work solely to the Black Church because of the barriers we fear based on racial difference. We cannot allow struggling communities to scratch their way out of the financial, political, and social strife to which they have been relegated through *institutional* bigotry and prejudice because of *individual* bigotry and prejudice. We are called to lead like Joshua and to “fear not” whatever the unknown may be because we are walking in God’s purpose. We must act as ambassadors of our faith and our profession using our shared belief in helping those in need to make connections to Black Church clergy and congregations. We have resources that can be brought to bear in the ongoing fight for social and economic justice faced daily by those who are served by the Black Church. This will require, however, starting where these populations are and getting beyond our own personal barriers so that we can help the leaders and members of the Black Clergy lead their people to the promised land.

Kimberly Hardy, PhD, MSW  
Storrs, CT

#### Growth

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past several decades, and work together with the leaders of CSCO to update and provide new information to these pages on a regular basis

- Provide the opportunity for members of this new member interest group to meet and/or sponsor trainings before, during, and/or after the annual NACSW convention

NACSW’s Board is excited by the promise and potential represented by our on-going conversation with these two Christian associations. We invite your prayer and feedback in the months ahead as we seek to discover the best way to integrate the identities, visions, resources, and members of these two associations into the on-going work and mission of NACSW!

#### Online Copies

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tober, 2013 Board meeting, after careful deliberation, the Board made the decision to move in a similar direction with NACSW’s quarterly journal, *Social Work and Christianity*. At this October meeting, the Board adopted an analogous policy whereby **only NACSW members who contact the office to specifically request hard copies of *Social Work and Christianity* will receive *SWC* in hard copy format** starting with our Summer, 2014 issue. Once again, this will make it possible for NACSW members who want a hard copy of *SWC* to continue receiving one upon request, but will set as the “default” option that all other NACSW members will receive a link via email to an electronic copy of each new issue of *SWC* when it comes

out each quarter rather than automatically receiving a hard copy through the mail.

NACSW looks forward to continue providing NACSW members with the same quality journal content and attractive design as we move toward primarily electronic delivery and distribution of *SWC* in an effort to be the best stewards possible of our association resources. Please don’t hesitate to contact NACSW (info@nacs.org, or 888.426.4712) with any questions you might have about this and/or to request being placed on a list to continue receiving hard copies of *SWC* if this is your preference.

# Thankful for the Gardener

**T**hen he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"—Luke 13:6-9



David Fritz

I am listening to Mark Knopfler's "Sailing to Philadelphia" CD. I love to hear my favorite track, "Speedway to Nazareth." Not just because I love racing—I really do. Not just because Knopfler and Dire Straits are great artists—they really are/were. It's because this track, all 6:20 of it, is a beautiful story of triumph over adversity. Nothing seems to go right for this driver and his team. It has been a very long season of breakdowns, accidents, and injuries. A wasted season. Despair has set in. The team is ready to chuck it all. But then comes the weekend at Nazareth, and it all clicks. Everything works as designed. They blow away the rest of the field—finally. "At the Speedway at Nazareth, I made no mistake." The second half of this track is a beautiful instrumental piece with images of smooth driving, great speed, and finally, a checkered flag.

The fig tree is worthless. It is not pulling its weight. It is not goal-oriented. It lacks motivation. It seems incapable of making decisions for itself. It doesn't seem to have any strengths. It's just . . . there. It has been three whole years already, and this tree has not changed at all. It is only taking up valuable space. Nothing seems to work. Might as well uproot the whole tree and

use that space and that soil for something that is more productive, more capable of bearing some fruit of repentance.

The gardener still believes there is hope for this fig tree, despite all indications to the contrary. He is still not sure what to do, but there must be something he can do. Maybe more tender loving care. Maybe more careful digging. Maybe more fertilizer. He's willing to try anything.

Perhaps he can talk to the tree some more. Better yet, maybe he needs to listen more carefully. Perhaps there is a therapeutic technique he hasn't tried yet. Perhaps one of the tree's peers or family members will finally get through to him. Maybe the mere passage of time, even just one more year, will cause the tree to wake up to the realities of life, or even to

its own mortality, so that, at long last, it decides to do something—anything—to show its worth.

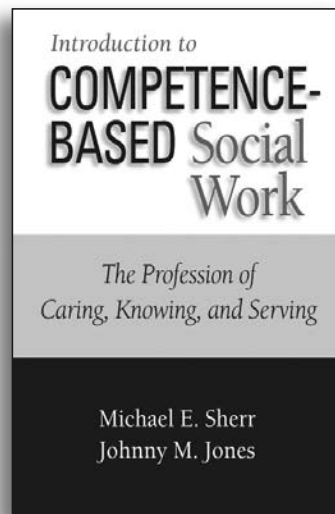
Gardeners work to produce fruit. Drivers struggle to win races. Writers struggle to find the right words. Students struggle to master the material in their classes. Teachers struggle to find creative ways to keep the class's attention. We social workers might struggle with looking for positive change in our clients' lives. We look, and we wait. How long do we wait? What do we do when change doesn't happen? Or when change doesn't happen as quickly as we would like? Or when change doesn't happen in ways we would like to see?

It is just a parable, I know, but I'm thankful for that gardener. May the LORD have mercy on us all.

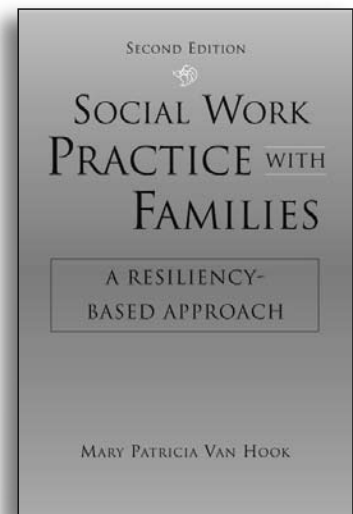
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## MEET THE BOARD

### Darryl Leedom

I'm new NACSW Board member Major Darryl L. Leedom, a Salvation Army officer, who is currently appointed at our National Headquarters in Alexandria, VA as the National Social Services Secretary. My duties and responsibilities are vast and vary; however, in the simplest of terms, I champion The Salvation Army troops as we bring "the gift of His presence" through the practical "demonstration of the gospel to suffering humanity." I am humbled to work for a faith based international organization, currently serving in more than 120 countries, that has remained true to its mission for almost 150 years.



Darryl Leedom

Domestically, The Salvation Army is present in every zip code in America and annually serves approximately 30 million individuals at their point of need, including people struggling with addictions, who are in prison, who have experienced disasters in their communities, who are poor and in need of food, housing, and health care, etc. The Salvation Army is a garment of compassion that covers our nation and I'm privileged to be a thread sewn into the fabric of grace.

Recently, I accepted an invitation to join the Board of Directors of the North American Association of Christian Social Workers (NACSW.) I eagerly accepted, as I firmly believe in the integration of Christian faith and professional social work practice. Moreover, I value engaging with the other NACSW Board members and leveraging our collective resources as we work toward a common goal, building synergy along the way. As a member of the Board, it is my desire to fulfill the mission of NACSW in three (3) key arenas: vision, leadership, and resource development.

In addition to being a member of NACSW's Board, I also currently serve as a Board member on several other boards, including The National Emergency Food and Shelter Program, The National Coalition for Health Care, and The Independent Sec-

tor Public Policy, International Council on Social Welfare – United States Chapter.

For more than twenty-four years, I have served as an officer (clergy) of The Salvation Army, an international movement whose mission is "to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination." Like the apostle Paul, I have labored and strived (1 Timothy 4:9) to expand His kingdom and advance the mission of the organization through various roles and responsibilities. An array of diverse experiences have been afforded, including, administration (Twin Cities Area Commander), academia (Director of Curriculum – The Salvation Army College for Officers' Training), community change agent (Corps Officer), consultant (Divisional Social Services Secretary, Divisional Youth Secretary), public policy (National Director for Public Policy), and vulnerable populations (Executive Director – Family Haven Emergency Shelter). The Salvation Army has been the vehicle through which I have rendered service to others in need; however, I have received "immeasurably more than I thought or could have imagined" (Ephesians 3:20)."

Besides NACWS, I seek professional development through various affiliates, including National Association of Social Workers, Network for Social Work Management, National Human Services Assembly Washington Policy Council, American Correctional Association, and American Society on Aging and Circle of Protection. My involvement with these organizations has enhanced and expanded my ability and skill set.

On June 13, 1989 I married my best friend, Donna Horton. Together, we have journeyed along life's road. She has remained a constant source of encouragement and strength. Because of her, I'm a better person. We have been blessed with two children. Allison is 20, a junior at North Park College pursuing a degree in secondary education. Geoffrey is 17, a senior in high school preparing to engage in college life. As a family, we have enjoyed a number of vacations to Estes Park, CO., particularly hiking the trails located within the Rocky Mountain National Park. Laughter has filled our home. Soon we will be empty nesters; simply, a bend in the road. Beyond the bend, a whole new adventure awaits.

continued on page 10

## UPCOMING AUDIO CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS AND PODCASTS

### AUDIO CONFERENCES

April 2014 Audio Conference/Webinar  
"Maxims for Management: Manifesting  
Christian Principles as Supervisors,  
Managers and Administrators"  
Frank Raymond  
April 28, 2014  
1 pm – 2:15 pm (Eastern)

September 2014 Audio Conference/  
Webinar  
"It's in the House: Couples' Faith  
and Stronger Marriages"  
Jacqueline Dyer  
September 29, 2014  
1 pm – 2:15 pm (Eastern)

November 2014 Audio Conference/  
Webinar  
"Engaging, Practical, & User Friendly  
Approaches to Technology & Teaching/  
Training"  
Stephen Baldrige and David Cecil  
November 24, 2014  
1 pm – 2:15 pm (Eastern)

### PODCASTS

April 2014's Featured Podcast  
"Preparing for Practice: The Faith  
Integration Experiences of Christian  
Social Work Students"  
Charles Stikes  
Recorded at an NACSW Raleigh Area  
Workshop in Quincy, MA  
on November 16, 2012

May 2014's Featured Podcast  
"What's in the Hood of Your Heart?"  
Kendall Matthews  
Recorded at NACSW's Convention 2012  
in St. Louis, MO on October 26th, 2012

June 2014's Featured Podcast  
"Congregational and Community  
Responses to Vulnerable Older Persons"  
Dennis Myers  
Recording of NACSW's Audio Conference  
Workshop on February 25th, 2013

July 2014's Featured Podcast  
"Lessons about Training Black Clergy in  
Mental Health: What Do We Know?"  
Jennifer Payne and Jacqueline Dyer  
Recorded at NACSW's Convention 2012  
in St. Louis, MO on October 26th, 2012

For more information about any NACSW  
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please contact the NACSW office at  
info@nacsw.org, 888-426-4712 (toll-free),  
or visit our website at www.nacsw.org.

## FREE FOR NACSW MEMBERS!

# NACSW Membership Referendum and Board Election Results

NACSW is pleased to announce the final results of its Winter, 2014 Board Nominations Process referendum. By a final vote of 90 in favor to 22 opposed, a total of 80% in favor, the revision proposed by NACSW's Board of Directors to NACSW's bylaws regarding Board nominations (described below) was passed.

During the month of January, NACSW sent a bylaws referendum proposing changes in the way NACSW nominates candidates for its Board of Directors. These proposed changes were designed to accomplish two objectives:

1. Allow for greater capacity for recruiting to the Board members to represent groups that are believed to be under-represented on the Board, for example young emerging leaders as well as persons of diversity.

2. Provide continued and more direct participation from the membership in elections to the Board.

These changes are described below. Please note that the first change "(a)" is a change in Board policy and does not require approval from the membership. The second change "(b)," however, is a bylaw revision and required approval from the membership. In the interest of transparency and clarity the Board informed the

membership prior to the referendum vote regarding change "(a)" in order to provide context and rationale for the proposed bylaws change "(b)."

## **(a) The Board proposed the following change to NACSW policies for nominating candidates for the Board.**

Current:

More nominees than vacancies are put to the membership in an election. The nominees (equal to the number of vacancies) with the highest number of votes are elected.

Proposed revision:

Board-nominated nominees equal to the number of vacancies are put to the membership in an election, as well as any additional write-in nominees from the membership. The nominees (equal to the number of vacancies) with the highest number of votes are elected.

## **(b) The board proposed to the NACSW membership the following two changes to Article V, Sections 4 and Section 5 of NACSW's bylaws:**

Current in Article V, Section 4:

"Candidates for election to the Board shall be nominated by the Board"

Proposed for Article V, Section **(revisions in bold)**:

"Candidates for election to the Board

shall be nominated by the Board **or written in on the ballot by the membership.**"

Current in Article V, Section 5:

"One class of Directors shall be elected annually. A ballot and information about each candidate shall be sent to each voting member of NACSW. The ballots shall be counted by two tellers, and the results shall be reported to the membership of the Association. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the case of a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted."

Proposed for in Article V, Section 5: **(revisions in bold)**:

"One class of Directors shall be elected annually. **Except for write-ins**, a ballot and information about each candidate shall be sent to each voting member of NACSW. **Voting totals are reviewed by at least two NACSW staff members**, and the results shall be reported to the membership of the Association. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the case of a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted."

The NACSW Board wants to thank you for your support of these valuable changes in NACSW's bylaws.

Denis Costello

NACSW Board President

## CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS FOR 2015 - 2017

Current members of NACSW are invited to propose candidates to run for NACSW's Board of Directors for terms starting 2015. Board members are primarily responsible for setting NACSW's future goals and direction, developing policies to guide the organization's efforts to meet those goals, and ensuring that the organization has and uses effectively the resources required to accomplish its mission. Nominees will be evaluated and prioritized in accordance with current Board needs for expertise and diversity.

Board candidates must be NACSW members who are committed to the mission of NACSW. They must be willing and able to attend the six semi-annual meetings of the Board that occur in various locations over the three year term. Board members are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and meal expenses.

To propose a nominee, you can download a nomination form from NACSW's website at: <http://www.nacsw.org/Board-Nom3.htm>, or contact the NACSW office for a copy.

## Leedom

continued from page 9

As I reflect upon my life, the words of  
Albert Orsborn capture my desire  
*My life must be Christ's broken bread,  
My love his out poured wine,  
A cup o'erfilled, a tabled spread  
Beneath his name and sign,  
That others souls refreshed and fed,  
May share his life through mine.*

Reference

Orsborn, A. (1987) *The Songbook of The Salvation Army*. The Salvation Army National Headquarters: Verona, NJ.



## NACSW T-SHIRTS, MUGS, AND MORE!

In response to requests we've received from our members, NACSW, in conjunction with the online store, Cafepress, is now offering t-shirts, mugs, bags, sweatshirts, baby clothes, water bottles, magnets, ipod cases, and more with the NACSW logo!

Check it out by going to: [www.cafepress.com/+nacsw+gifts](http://www.cafepress.com/+nacsw+gifts)



Keep current on NACSW news, events, photos, videos, and other resources by following us on NACSW's:



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California (Central)  
California – Northern  
California (Southern)  
Canada  
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Florida (Northwest)  
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## PARTNERING IN NACSW'S MISSION AND MINISTRY

There are a number of ways to provide a financial contribution to NACSW to partner with us in our mission and ministry.

- To make a secure, one-time or monthly donation, go to [https://www.nacsww.org/2008/2008\\_support.htm](https://www.nacsww.org/2008/2008_support.htm) or contact us at the office at [info@nacsww.org](mailto:info@nacsww.org), or call tollfree at: 888-426-4712.

- Please also consider NACSW as a beneficiary when you write or update your will. To discuss a planned giving option, please contact Rick Chamiec-Case, executive director, at [rick@nacsww.org](mailto:rick@nacsww.org), or 888.426.4712.

## NACSW JOBNET:

The Christian Career Connection



Looking to fill an open position?  
Visit NACSW's website [www.nacsww.org](http://www.nacsww.org)

Searching for a new job?  
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Online continuing education through the North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW) aims to offer easy, "on-demand" access to a wide array of high quality training options sensitive to the ethical integration of faith and practice from the comfort of your computer or mobile device. All trainings included in this program provide CEUs accredited by the Association of Social Work Boards.

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