

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

WNALC Annual Gathering

August 11-12, 2015
Dallas, Texas

A Gathering of Witnesses

Join us for two sessions of inspiration & fellowship, business & planning to unite & mobilize the Women of the NALC in fulfilling God's plan for this ministry.

SESSION I KEYNOTE:

REVEREND DR. DONALD G. MILES

Pastor Don is President of India Transformed, a ministry in partnership with an Indian ministry to plant churches and care for abandoned children, as well as a ministry partner with the NALC. He is on the Board of Directors of Living Free Ministries, training churches in support group ministry, and developing curricula for such groups.



SESSION II KEYNOTE: BISHOP JOHN F. BRADOSKY



The Bishop carries out a pastoral ministry within the church, serving as pastor for the pastors and congregations of the NALC. He carries out a ministry of visitation throughout the church, is a defender of the faith, and promotes the mission of the church. Bishop John has 36 years pastoral experience, serving in diverse ministry contexts including urban, suburban and multicultural. He has supervised multiple pastors and large staff for both congregations and church schools, developing organization and administration for each.



Registration, Lodging & Meals

Special room rates are available for those attending any of the Lutheran Week events at the Hyatt-DFW Airport, with shuttle for flyers & free parking for drivers. Please see NALC website for details to make those reservations and to register for events.

All meals are included in registration pricing, and will be served to us in our meeting groups. The earlier you register, the sooner we can be preparing for you in every way. Register online at thenalc.org.

NALC AND WNALC DISASTER SUPPORT FOR TEXAS



Our annual WNALC Gathering is less than two months away and we are all busy finalizing our plans. However, let us not forget those in need in Texas. Texas has been documented as a FEMA National Disaster by the President. Though the government will assist in many areas, we should ask ourselves, "What can we do to help?" First, and most important, are the power of prayer and Christian spiritual care. Then come the tangible needs.

What better way to support the State of Texas, the sight for our 2015 NALC Annual Convocation and WNALC Gathering, than to ask our congregations to donate Bibles and/or \$10+ gift cards for Walmart, Home Depot, etc. for this mission. These will be given to individuals and families in the Texas counties of Cooke, Gaines, Grimes, Harris, Hays, Navarro, and Van Zandt. A representative/delegate could bring them to the Convocation/Gathering and the NALC Disaster Task Force will ensure that they are delivered to these areas that have the greatest need.

So, please bring those much needed gifts to our gathering to be dedicated for those in need of Christian spiritual care or rebuilding supplies. If not attending the WNALC Gathering, simply drop them off at the NALC Disaster Response Table in the Display/Vendors section of the Convocation. Mary Bates, Task Force Chair, and David McGgettigan, Disaster Response Coordinator will be present to inform you about areas of need and also, give information on the NALC Disaster Response Program.

What a blessing our help will be for many families in these disaster-stricken areas.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In August at the Annual Gathering, four seats on The Women's Council of the Women of the NALC will be newly elected to two-year terms plus a one-year term for another seat vacated. Please pray with us that God will staff our volunteer board once again, for all the decisions and tasks to be accomplished in His plan for this mission organization of the North American Lutheran Church. If He is calling you to work with this group of women to support and connect our sisters in Christ across the continent, please step up and fill the need. Nomination Form can be downloaded from our website www.wnalc.org (Annual Gathering link at top of home page) and will be available at the meetings.



**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION 2015
USING THE FORM
YOU CAN DOWNLOAD AT www.wnalc.org
& SEND TO
YOUR MISSION DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE**

(Each member group or individual must be thus "rostered" in order to vote.)

SESSION I A Gathering of Witnesses: Secure in Christ's Love, Christians Tried & True
 "Remember...them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."
 Heb.13:3 (KJ)

Tuesday	Fellowship & Inspiration
12:30 pm	Registration
1:00 pm	Come to order Worship song & Prayer Annual Report & Call for Nominations
1:45pm	Keynote: PASTOR DON MILES of India Transformed "Power Evangelism vs. Persecution. A new Mission Model in India" Bible study & discussion groups
3:00 pm	Break
3:15 pm	Worship song
3:30 pm	Disaster Task Force presentation
4:00 pm	IDA MARTINSON of China Service Venture "The Costs & Joys of Witnessing in China"
4:50 pm	Mission Support Committee on Mission Banks
5:00 pm	Break
5:30 pm	<u>Fellowship *DINNER</u> included in registration (a continuation of the session) Special music by soloist, Robbie Harrell CARMEN HALE of Elam Ministries "The Bold & Courageous Church in Iran"
6:30 pm	Closing song & prayer

SESSION II A Gathering of Witnesses: Commissioned by the Lord, Laborers in the Harvest
 "As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent Me.
 Night is coming when no one can work." John 9:4 (NIV)

Wednesday	Business & Planning
7:30 am	Registration & packet distribution
8:00 am	*BREAKFAST – Bishop John Bradosky
9:00 am	Worship song & Prayer Welcome Call for nominations
10:00 am	Break
10:15	Prior Annual Gathering Minutes & Proposed Budget
10:30 am	Presentation of nominees Election of Women's Council members
11:00 am	Committee orientation & breakout planning workshops
12:00 pm	*LUNCH (with Communications resources presentation)
12:30 pm	Farewell

*Meals listed are included in registration price.

GUEST SPEAKERS & SOLOIST



PASTOR DON MILES graduated from the University of Colorado with a BA and MA in psychology, and the University of Northern Colorado with an Ed D in counseling psychology. For twenty years he worked in public mental health systems in Colorado, Georgia, and New York. Prior to attending Concordia Seminary in 1979, he was Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health. He has held academic appointments at Emory University, Georgia State University, Long Island University, and the New York School of Psychiatry. In 1979, God called Don to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. After graduating, Don pastored a church in Queens, NY, for 10 years, and from 1991-2000, was Sr. Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Denver. He is now retired from full-time pastoral ministry.



IDA M. MARTINSON, R.N., Ph.D., was for 10 years Head of Nursing Research at the University of Minnesota, School of Nursing, and subsequently a long-time Professor of Nursing at the University of California San Francisco, serving as Department Chair of Family Health Care Nursing for 8 years and then a Professor in the Department. She has done extensive research in children with cancer both in the US and internationally, and is internationally known for her work in home care for children with cancer. She has an extensive bibliography in professional Nursing and Health journals. For four years, prior to retirement, Ida was Head of the School of Nursing at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. She was co-founder of China Service Ventures in 2001 and served as Nursing Advisor. She is currently a Board member of China Service Ventures, has extensive involvement in Asia as well as with CSV, and is well known in nursing circles in China. On November 3rd of 2010 she received an Honorary Doctorate from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the first nurse to be so honored in Hong Kong. Earlier this year (2015) she received a Herman Fiefel Award in Taiwan from the International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement. She is on the Church Council at Bethel Lutheran Church (NALC) in Bemidji as well as on the Child Care Center Advisory Board. She and her husband Paul speak frequently to church groups and others on the Church in China.



CARMEN HALE is from the Philippines and had an opportunity to live in Iran for two years before the Iranian Revolution in 1979. She has served with Elam Ministries since its founding in London twenty-five years ago. Dan, with a background as a CPA, was serving with a mission organization in the US when he met Carmen in 2002. They were soon married and Carmen moved from London to Virginia. As a couple, Dan and Carmen have proven to be passionate advocates for the Iranian church. In 2009, after years of serving as an Elam volunteer, Dan left his CPA job and joined Carmen in full-time service with Elam. In August 2010, Dan and Carmen relocated from Virginia to Dallas, Texas as Regional Directors. They host ministry gatherings and speak at churches in the central United States, from Texas to the Great Lakes, encouraging all to pray for and stand with the underground church in Iran.



ROBBIE HARRELL is a music teacher in the Forney Independent School, having pursued her calling for 25 years. She attended Southern Methodist University on a full vocal scholarship and earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and Vocal Performance and a Master's from East Texas State University. Robbie was married to Michael Harrell for 26 years. He went to be with Jesus in 2013.

"I love to share my talent through singing words inspired by God. I do not know how non-Christians 'do' this life without the hope and assurance that God gives."