



# WELS Nursing Today

## 2013 WELSNA Challenge

We received two very inspiring submissions for the WELSNA Challenge this last year. We challenged our nurses to take on a project in their home congregation or community. Please read below how two groups took the challenge.

The Parish Nurses from David's Star Lutheran Church in Jackson, Wis., with the approval from their Elders, found a fun and yet meaningful project to coordinate within the congregation. They asked a member who volunteers at a local free health clinic to speak at their quarterly meeting about her work there. The group of nurses learned that there is a published *wish list* of OTC health related items that the clinic staff likes to offer clients who are often in need of even the most basic items. Because the original founder of the clinic many years ago was also a much loved local physician, the response to the collection of OTC items was wonderful! They easily collected around 150 pounds worth of items like Tylenol, cough medicine, and tissues. The clinic nurses were amazed by the delivery and the parish nurses hope to be able to meet this local community need again next year. An easy and yet meaningful way to let our light shine.

A Parish Nurse group of about 15 nurses at Faith Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac, Wis. worked hard to plan their November 3, 2013, Health Fair and project for the 2013 WELSNA Challenge. The theme

for the fair was "A Friend Loves At All Times," and the guest speaker was Holly Schneider SW, a marriage and family therapist whose talk focused on Christ-centered relationships. After Holly's presentation people had a chance to ask questions and a great discussion took place. In the cafeteria next door there were 16 different displays to visit, with flu shots from the Fond du Lac County nurse and a variety of synod and community resources to learn about. About 125 people heard Holly speak in Bible Class between Sunday services, and the displays were open from 8-11 a.m. in the school cafeteria with around 200 visitors. It was a great morning for the members at Faith and plans for next year's topic will center on Alzheimer's disease.

These are both wonderful examples of serving our Lord through serving others. Perhaps you will find inspiration in these ideas, and create a project fitting your own congregation. And the winner of our WELSNA Challenge is... Faith Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac! Congratulations and enjoy the gift card from NPH! We thank David's Star and Faith for their submissions. And though the challenge is over, please let us know of any projects you may have going. Inspire us!



## Internal Bleeding

By Pastor Mike Novotny, *Eastside Lutheran Church, Madison, Wis.*



Internal bleeding can kill you. As blood fills a cavity in the body, cardiac arrest and even death can occur. Every nurse knows internal bleeding is an urgent medical condition.

But, sadly, internal bleeding isn't so easy to spot. It is, after all, internal.

Pornography is like that. It can kill you. Porn kills intimacy in marriages as wives (or husbands...) realize they are trying to compete against every shape, size, weight, race, and type of person God created. Porn kills self-control as brains are rewired to lust incessantly and sexual images are stored in the deep recesses of our minds. Porn kills ministries as called workers get caught with videos Jesus wouldn't watch. Porn kills a relationship with God since the wages of sin (of which porn undoubtedly is) is death.

But, sadly, porn use is not so easy to spot. It is, in many ways, internal.

And they don't know what you did either...

Porn use, abuse, and addiction is skyrocketing in America and, logically, we should not be surprised. Porn is always available, always affordable, and almost always anonymous. It is the perfect sinful drug.

Sound hopeless? It's not. **"The grace of God that brings salvation...teaches us to say, 'No!' to worldly passions and to live self-controlled lives" (Titus 2).**

Conquerors through Christ (CtC) is a new WELS initiative to help God's conquered people conquer porn use

through the grace of Jesus Christ. CtC's focus on the gospel as both our source of forgiveness and our power for Christian living is rare among Christian pornography ministries, but desperately needed. For Jesus' grace is greater than the greatest porn user's sin. His cleansing blood is stronger than the dirtiest stains of the soul. His light is brighter than our deepest darkness. And his Spirit can stop the internal bleeding that porn causes.

You and those you love don't need to bleed internally with shame, guilt, and hopeless. Christ has and can conquer such things!

What can you do? First, check out [www.conquerorsthroughchrist.net](http://www.conquerorsthroughchrist.net). Familiarize yourself with the site for your own sake and for the sake of those to whom you minister. Second, get connected to CtC on Facebook ([Facebook.com/WELSCTC](https://www.facebook.com/WELSCTC)) to receive daily encouragements, gospel-rich passages, the latest news, and more.

Porn is infecting our churches. But you can bring the cure God's people need. Help them stop the bleeding. Help them conquer pornography through Christ!



## Christians Forward – Southeast Asia

By Anne L. Press, *Executive Director*

CFSA has exciting ministry opportunities in 2014. You can make a difference in the lives of countless people who don't know the Lord or who need you to help them through difficult times. CFSA exists to spread the Word of God and to champion the underdog. We need you to make our work...your work...happen. Join a team now.



### 2014 Opportunities

#### 1. April 16 – 30, 2014

This is a medical trip to northwestern Thailand. The following Medical Staff positions are available: DRs, RNs, NPs, PAs, LPNs...

#### 2. July 22 – August 05, 2014

This is a Humanitarian Aid trip to The Father Ray

Foundation in Pattaya, Thailand. I have the following positions available: 6 – 8 volunteers who have a love for the Lord in their hearts and who can share that love with Down Syndrome children, blind and deaf children, orphans, juvenile delinquents, and women who have escaped prostitution and slavery. Volunteers will also be doing light farm work, housecleaning, and conducting and participating in English conversation classes.

**3. September 02 – 16, 2014**

This is a Medical trip to Cambodia. The following Medical Staff positions are available:

DR, RN, NP, PA, LPN, etc. We will be working with Crossing Cambodia. This is a new organization that targets orphaned street children. We will work alongside a Cambodian medical team, giving aid to those children.

**4. October 28 – November 11, 2014**

This is a Medical trip to northern Thailand. The following Medical Staff positions are available: DRs, RNs, NPs, PAs, LPNs...

**Cost**

Volunteers pay \$2500 to fill a position on the team. This includes r/t flight from nearest large airport, i.e., Chicago, Dulles, Minneapolis, Denver, Seattle, Phoenix, Los Angeles, etc; inter-Thai flights; ground transportation; hotel (volunteers share rooms/beds); one meal/day. Christians Forward Southeast Asia (CFSA) accepts personal checks and Pay Pal payments on our Web site. The cost of the trip is due two months prior to trip's departure. There is a \$500.00 increase if payments arrive after the two month cut-off.

**Additional Fundraising**

CFSA is an entirely self-funded organization relying on donations and offerings to maintain its operation. Therefore, I ask all volunteers to do additional fundraising to help with that operation. Funds are used to buy clothing and food for the patients and children, and to cover unforeseen trip expenses, etc. Any remaining funds are put directly into CFSA's treasury. There is no time limit when additional fundraising is due and there is no set amount required. Any amount is useful and CFSA is most grateful for whatever volunteers are able to raise!

I love the work that I do and I love sharing it with others. Getting volunteers out of the comfort of America and into 3rd world countries is wonderful. Volunteers get a chance to help and in return find that they too are helped! Showing compassion and kindness to others is very rewarding, but above all, sharing the good news of the gospel with lost souls is literally life-saving and an experience beyond compare.

If you would like more information on this amazing ministry do not hesitate to contact Anne L. Press.

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**WELS Nurses Association  
 Spring Conference 2014**

*"Equipped to Serve"*



Join us **Saturday March 31st, 2014** at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the WELSNA Spring Conference, **"Equipped to Serve"**. Hear from expert speakers as they provide "tools" for us to use to better our practice as professional nurses. Gather with other nurses in keeping with the tradition of nurses working together as servants of Christ.

**Conference activities include:**

- Continental breakfast
- Keynote spiritual and clinical speakers
- Catered lunch & various vendors
- Tour of the WLC nursing lab & student poster presentations
- Afternoon breakout sessions



Registration begins **early February!**  
 Visit [www.welsnurses.net](http://www.welsnurses.net)  
 for more information  
 or to register on-line.

The WELS nurses association aims to educate and support nurses, encouraging them to serve others with Christ-centered care.

**"May the God of peace equip you with everything good for doing his will... through Jesus Christ." Hebrews 13: 20-21**

## • News and Notes •

### **A college-level Parish Nurse course is coming soon to the Wisconsin Lutheran College Nursing Department.**

Work is underway in developing our very own Parish Nurse Course. This course is being developed in conjunction with the Wisconsin Lutheran College, School of Nursing. It will target the experienced nurse who already serves as parish nurse in their congregation, experienced nurses who would like to serve in their congregation, as well as the nursing students at the college. The format will be an online learning platform done in an asynchronous manner. Asynchronous learning is a form whereby a Web site is used for the students to go to and retrieve the assignments. The student can also download their homework assignments back onto the Web site at their convenience (before the deadline). This will allow the working professional maximum flexibility to complete the course during the semester it will be taught. Look for this course in summer 2014 with registration in the spring. More to come at the WELSNA Spring Conference.

**All Saints Rural Health Services** is busy building a new general clinic, maternity clinic, and pharmacy at Woleche, west of Ogoja in Nigeria. They need stethoscopes, blood pressure equipment, baby scales—any sort of basic exam and treatment equipment. All Saints Lutheran Church of Nigeria is one of WELS' sister synods in Africa. The Rural

Health Service is a humanitarian aid arm of that church body. Might you or a group in your congregation wish to donate any items or cash for the purchase of needed items? Contact: Pastor Douglas Weiser, 425-577-0583; dpweiser@msn.com.

**WELSNA Spring Conference:** Registration and more information will be available early February on the Web site, [www.welsnurses.net](http://www.welsnurses.net) or if you prefer to register by phone, call Sue Bolha @ 262-677-3485. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Our own WELSNA nurse, Pat Schlosser is heading to the annual **"Men of His Word Conference"** in Oshkosh, Wis. on February 15th to set up a WELSNA display and provide information about Conquerors through Christ (CtC), a new WELS initiative to help God's conquered people conquer porn use through the grace of Jesus Christ. See related article on "Internal Bleeding" on page 2. Go to <http://menofhisword.org/content.cfm?id=313> for more information about this great men's conference! The conference theme is "For Such A Time As This" as each man travels a unique road. Join them this year and be renewed, challenged, and encouraged to be ready "For Such a Time As This."



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