



# HIS HANDS

Strengthening, encouraging, and equipping God's people to serve those with special needs.

## Confirming a deaf adult

By Beverly Nehls, *Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*. A retired teacher, she is the mother of two deaf adult sons.

Talk about a challenge! Instructing any adult for confirmation can be a difficult task, depending on their level of commitment and communication.

But confirming a deaf adult? Where do I begin? How do I communicate with the person? How do I know if the person understands what I am teaching?

WELS Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has completed a rework of the adult instruction manual *By Grace Alone* by Pastor Rolfe Westendorf (NPH, 1979).

*By Grace Alone: An Instruction Manual for Deaf Adults* uses simple, short sentences and Scripture



### WELS Special Ministries

WELS Special Ministries provides resources for eight areas of congregational ministry. Each issue of *His Hands* includes articles and information about these various resources.

#### Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

*Confirming a deaf adult* 1-2

#### Committee on Mental Health

*When faith hurts: responding to the spiritual impact of child abuse* 2-3

#### Parish Nursing

*Is parish nursing for you?* 3

*Online parish nursing course coming in Fall 2015* 4

#### Mission for the Visually Impaired

*Mission for the Visually Impaired moves into 21st century* 6

#### Chaplain Certification Committee

*Chaplain Certification online courses* 6

#### Prison Ministry

*Receive WELS Prison Ministry resources* 6

quotes from *The Holy Bible: English Version for the Deaf*. This manual should be used with a sign interpreter, a flow-through communicator who is not expected to do explaining. These days, sign interpreters are available via smart phones or tablets using a service called "Video Remote Interpreting."

If the deaf person is a good reader of English and a good lip-reader (understands what is being said by looking at the person's lips while hearing little or no sound), the teacher might use the usual Bible Information Class (BIC) material. However, lip-reading is difficult, inexact, and exhausting. New terminology adds challenges. One-on-one is best for understanding and encourages questions.

Some deaf people do not speak, are poor readers of English, and do not lip-read at all. They often rely solely on American Sign Language (ASL) as their language for

communication. ASL is not equal to English, because it has a different sentence structure. When an ASL user is asked to write something, the English is often poor and the person appears uneducated. He often is not good at reading English either. Reading and understanding the usual BIC material is challenging; therefore, it is strongly suggested that the new manual be used with this group.

This instruction manual for deaf adults is available at no charge from:

**WELS Special Ministries**  
**N16 W23377 Stone Ridge Drive**  
**Waukesha, WI 53188**

Phone: 414-256-3241

E-mail: [specialministries@wels.net](mailto:specialministries@wels.net)



## Committee on Mental Health

### When faith hurts: Responding to the spiritual impact of child abuse

By Victor I. Vieth

*Victor Vieth is a former child abuse prosecutor who went on to direct the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse. He is the founder and senior director of the National Child Protection Training Center, a program of Gundersen Health System. He is a member of St. John, Lewiston, Minn.*

**It is to the little children we must preach;  
 it is for them that the entire ministry exists.**  
 – Martin Luther

The physical and emotional tolls of child abuse are well-known, but few appreciate its spiritual impact. According to 34 studies involving more than 19,000 abused children, a majority were affected spiritually.

This may happen when an offender uses religious rationale, such as telling a child he is being beaten because of the child's sinfulness. Or an abuser may cite a child's biological reaction to sexual touching as proof the child is equally to blame for her own victimization.

Even if the abuse is not in the name of religion, many

children will have spiritual questions, for example, why God did not answer a prayer to stop the abuse.

If the church does not help abused children suffering spiritually, research suggests that many will eventually leave the church, even abandon their faith. Yet the church has often ignored the needs of these children.

To better prepare our called workers, all students at Martin Luther College receive training in recognizing and responding to cases of child abuse, with additional training provided at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

In addition, Special Ministries' Committee on Mental Health Needs has formed a task force, Freedom for the Captives, to develop materials and training so that



our churches can better help abused children in our congregations and communities. These materials will be available on a website and in other formats.

Churches can also utilize these tools:

- **Child protection policies.** Some studies indicate that most child molesters are religious and that the worst offenders are often active members of their church. One reason: the faith community often has weak child protection policies in its schools, Sunday schools, sports programs, and camps. If your school or church does not have rigorous child protection policies, or if you are simply not sure, speak with one or more child abuse experts who can assist you in implementing or improving your policies.
- **Training.** Policies without training are often ineffective. Pastors, teachers, and church youth workers should be trained how to recognize and respond to abuse and to understand the importance of policies in deterring offenders. Instructing our children in personal safety measures is also critical, so that children know what to do if someone sexually abuses them or otherwise violates them. When done

appropriately, such education is not frightening and may empower a child who is being abused to reach out to a teacher or pastor for help.

- **Sermons.** Many survivors have said they never approached their pastor for help because they never heard him give a sermon about abuse, mention the topic in Bible class, or address it in any other manner. Many survivors believe the pastor simply won't understand their pain and, like the offender, will blame them for the abuse. Meanwhile, many offenders sit smugly in the pews, confident the church will never speak out against child abuse. For the sake of the victims, we need to change this dynamic.

Jesus said it would be better to be tossed into the sea with a millstone around one's neck than to damage the faith of a boy or girl (Matthew 18:6). When it comes to this sin, our Savior's warning has often fallen on deaf ears. As a result, children have suffered needlessly and offenders are emboldened to strike again.

Owing a debt of love, and aware that our Savior will ask us to give an accounting of the children he has placed in our care, we must pray for and act on their behalf.



## WELS Nurses Association

### Is parish nursing for you?

By Carlo Piraino

*Dr. Carlo Piraino, RN, served in the U.S. Navy (1981-1998). He works for the VA as associate director for Health Care Services and chief nurse executive. A member of St. Paul, Tomah, Wis., he serves as secretary of the WELS Parish Nurse Council.*

#### "...so I will comfort you." (Isaiah 66:13)

Why do we encourage Christians to maintain optimal health? To better serve the Lord and his people!

Parish nursing is an independent, non-invasive, health and wellness practice within a congregation. Unlike typical nursing positions, parish nursing is always focused on the "intentional care of the spirit."

What might that look like in our churches? WELS parish nurses are always seeking opportunities to keep God's precious people connected to Word and Sacrament.

- A parish nurse might visit shut-ins, bringing along a listening ear, referrals to community resources, and a prayer and devotion reminding them of God's love and promises.

- A parish nurse can help a church make its campus accessible for people of all ages and all abilities.
- A parish nurse will use the time before and after services to listen to people, recognizing the opportunity to provide emotional support and to remind people that our loving Lord is with them as they face the challenges of the day.
- All this in addition to offering health education and health counseling!

With their special gifts and talents, parish nurses can impact our congregations with "intentional care of the spirit." Prayerfully consider serving your congregation as a parish nurse.

### Online parish nursing course coming in Fall 2015

Wisconsin Lutheran College is offering a six-week online course in parish nursing (NUR 391) in Fall 2015. The course may be taken for three credits or for non-credit.

Designed for both the experienced RN and the novice, the coursework will assist in developing a Christian understanding and the tools needed to develop or work in a parish nurse program, including how to:

- Foster a relationship with your church's leadership team.
- Utilize health assessment skills to evaluate and address your parish's health care and nursing needs.

Students will have opportunities to apply knowledge from liberal arts and nursing theory in simulated patient care situations.

Weekly assignments can be completed on the nurse's own schedule. All work will be submitted through the Wisconsin Lutheran College online portal.

Prerequisites: RN license from any state, or successful completion of NUR 301 and 311, or the completion of the first clinical rotation in the student's RN program (if not a WLC student).

Tuition is \$500, with the cost split among the congregation (\$200), the student (\$100), and WELS Nurses Association (\$200). The Antioch II Foundation awarded this matching grant to WELSNA to help nurses cover the course tuition. Questions? Contact Sue Bolha at [welsnurses@wels.net](mailto:welsnurses@wels.net).

To learn more about the course, contact the instructor:

**Dr. Carlo Piraino, RN, [carlo\\_piraino@yahoo.com](mailto:carlo_piraino@yahoo.com)**

For information regarding the Wisconsin Lutheran College School of Nursing, contact the Chair:

**Dr. Rebekah Carey, [rebekah.carey@wlc.edu](mailto:rebekah.carey@wlc.edu)**

## Mission for the Visually Impaired

### Mission for the Visually Impaired moves into 21st century

The Internet and the digital revolution have been a boon to the blind. Computers with special readers make it possible for people with visual impairment to find many of the resources they need. For this reason, the Mission for the Visually Impaired (MVI) now has its resource catalog of Braille, large print, and audio recordings available at [www.wels.net/special-ministries/visually-impaired](http://www.wels.net/special-ministries/visually-impaired). The Internet can bring the resources of MVI from its St. Paul, Minn., headquarters into homes across the country and around the world.

Recently MVI invested in five new computers. Some of these computers need to have special "key" capabilities to

work with Braille, and all our computers must be able to work with the unique technology needed by our ministry.

This investment is the first step in bringing our capabilities into the 21st century. Such upgrades are costly, but we pray that it will make many of our resources more easily available to a new generation of computer savvy men and women who are also visually impaired.

*The Mission for the Visually Impaired is directed by Bill Bremel, chairman, and Cathie Humann, general manager. Reach them via e-mail at [welsvisimp@wels.net](mailto:welsvisimp@wels.net) or via phone on Tuesdays at 651-291-1536.*



## Chaplain Certification Program

### Chaplain Certification online courses offered in Fall 2015

Martin Luther College will offer three courses this fall as part of the Chaplain Certification program. These courses are not just for those preparing to be chaplains, but also are useful for called workers and church members to equip them for specialized opportunities for ministry.

You need not be enrolled in the Chaplain Certification program to take any of these courses.

**THE 9523 – Ministry to the Incarcerated and Their Families** addresses the role of the prison or jail chaplain, the laws and regulations that govern jail and prison chaplaincy, and how to minister with the Word under these unique circumstances.

**THE 9524 – Frontline Chaplaincy** will prepare students to serve people on the frontline in the defense

of our society, including law enforcement, fire fighters, and military personnel. This unique population of protectors often carry, silently and alone, a burden of their own trauma.

**THE 9525 – Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry** is designed to equip men and women who want to assist their pastor in ministry to the aging, whether homebound or in care facilities. Special tuition assistance is available to members of churches in the Michigan District.

To enroll in the Chaplain Certification program or for details on any of these courses, visit <https://mlc-wels.edu>, then search for "Chaplain Certification."



If you would like colored copies of this newsletter to distribute, contact us at [specialministries@wels.net](mailto:specialministries@wels.net). To subscribe for the first time to an electronic newsletter such as *His Hands*, go to [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net) subscribe; if you already receive electronic communications from WELS, you can subscribe to *His Hands* by clicking on "Change E-mail Settings" in a recent e-mail from WELS (such as *Together*).



Yes! I'd like to receive WELS Prison Ministry resources!



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Please send me these FREE  
 WELS Prison Ministry resources.

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or P.O. Box

Cut at the fold and mail to:  
 WELS Prison Ministry, PO Box 452  
 New Ulm, MN 56073  
 507-354-3130 · 507-354-3219 (fax)  
 prisonministry@wels.net

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip

Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Level 1 Correspondence Courses

Course # and Title	Qty	Course # and Title	Qty
1) Jesus the Christ (Jesus and his work of redemption) <i>Jesus el Cristo</i>	_____	9) Free to Live (Christian freedom) <i>Libre para Vivir</i>	_____
2) A Bible Handbook (The Bible's message and how I use it) <i>Un Manual de la Biblia</i>	_____	10) Jesus Is Lord, Addiction Is Not (Overcoming addiction) <i>Jesus Es El Señor, La Adiccion No Lo Es</i>	_____
3) God's Great Exchange (God's demands and his promised gift) <i>El Gran Intercambio de Dios</i>	_____	11) You Must Be Born Again (The Holy Spirit's work)	_____
4) The Death and Rising of Jesus Christ (Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection)	_____	12) The Law of God (The Ten Commandments) <i>La Ley de Dios</i>	_____
5) What Christians Believe (The Apostles Creed) <i>Lo que los Cristianos Creen</i>	_____	13) The Broken-Hearted Father (Life under God's influence) <i>El Padre de Corazon Quebrantado</i>	_____
6) God's Plan for the World (Saving the world from sin, death, Satan) <i>El Plan de Dios para el Mundo</i>	_____	14) So I'm Forgiven; Now What? (The book of James) <i>Soy Perdonado, ¿Y Ahora Que?</i>	_____
7) The Reluctant Prophet (The book of Jonah) <i>El Profeta Renuente</i>	_____	15) God Created Man and Woman (Sex and its proper use) <i>Dios Creo al Hombre y la Mujer</i>	_____
8) The Words Jesus Taught (The Lord's Prayer) <i>Las Palabras Que Jesus Enseño</i>	_____		

Continues on back

Course # and Title	Qty	Course # and Title	Qty
16) Life After Death (What happens after we die) <i>Vida Despues de la Muerte</i>	_____	18) God Is My Anger Manager (Keeping anger under control)	_____
17) God Creates Our World (Creation and the promise of a Savior) <i>Dios Creo Nuestro Mundo</i>	_____	19) Am I Worthy? (Seeing myself through God's eyes)	_____
	_____	20) Enough Is Enough (Contentment)	_____

### Other Resources

Title	Qty	Title	Qty
Facing Freedom (A guide for newly released inmates)	_____	NirV Bible (NIV in 5th-grade level English)	_____
The Promise (An overview of the plan of salvation) <i>La Promesa</i>	_____	<i>Santa Biblia</i> (Holy Bible in Spanish)	_____
Water of Life (Thirty 30-minute studies for released inmates)	_____	Scripture Passages and Prayers (A devotion booklet)	_____
EAE New Testament (Julian Anderson's American translation)	_____		

### Level 2 Correspondence Courses

Course # and Title	Qty	Course # and Title	Qty
1) Believe and Live (Gospel of John)	_____	7) The Gospel of John (The life of Christ)	_____
2) Chosen by Grace (The book of Ephesians)	_____	8) The Letter to the Romans (How we are forgiven through faith)	_____
3) Freedom in Christ (The book of Galatians)	_____	9) The Means of Grace (How God shows us his love)	_____
4) I Am Blessed (God's blessings in a Christian's life)	_____	10) The Parables of Jesus (Earthly stories, heavenly meanings)	_____
5) Righteous through Faith (The book of Romans)	_____	11) The Road to Emmaus (Based on the <i>Road to Emmaus</i> DVD)	_____
6) The Christian Church (History and growth of the church)	_____	12) Come, Follow Me (Based on the <i>Come, Follow Me</i> DVD)	_____