



# WA Lutheran News

May 2012

## LCAWA DISTRICT CONVENTION

The long weekend in March saw delegates from around the state converge on Esperance for the annual WA District convention.

Below is a quote from District President Greg Pfeiffer.

*"And so, as this year begins, we acknowledge the challenges, but also we affirm that God's promises are sure and that we can indeed hope in his Word! I am actually quite excited about the big things I see God doing in our tiny District."*

To read the popular report visit:

<http://www.esbconsult.com/lcawanews/>



## PASTORS CONFERENCE—MARCH 2012

St Paul's Kalgoorlie-Boulder were blessed to host the Pastors conference that took place immediately prior to the District Convention.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder is a 6 to 7 hour drive from Perth and 4 hours from Esperance so sometimes the congregation can feel isolated from the rest of the district.

Every week in the Prayer of the Church section of the service the members of St Paul's pray for a different congregation and Pastor (if the congregation of the week has one).

On the Thursday night of Pastor's conference one church family hosted a BBQ for members of the congregation and the visiting Pastors. What a great opportunity to meet most of the men that are prayed for many times during each year.

The church also prays for all the Pastor's wives so meeting the lovely Monica Dell'Antonio from Geraldton was an added treat.

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UPDATE

Serica Yurisich

### Professional Standards Coordinator

Monika Tropiano will be taking on the role of Professional Standards Coordinator for the LCAWA district. Monika and I worked together until I completely handed over to her at the end of March. Please direct PSU enquiries to Monika by email: [monika.tropiano@wa.lca.org.au](mailto:monika.tropiano@wa.lca.org.au)

### Checklist

Checklist documents are designed to assist your congregation in achieving Professional Standards compliance. The checklist and guidelines outline who in your congregation is required to apply for which particular checks. There is also information on each different type of check. If you have any queries, please ask. The checklist and guidelines can be found in: *Volunteer Police Check Guidelines.pdf* and *Professional Standards Checklist.pdf*

### Training

The training that is now being used is the Professional Standards training, which covers ChildSafe, Safe Place and a range of other areas, including risk management and safety planning. This training is now a requirement for anyone who is required to apply for any kind of police check (including National Police Certificate, Working With Children Check and Volunteer Police Check) and includes any paid staff (Pastor's and layworkers), anyone in a position of responsibility (eg Church Council members, Elders, Lay Assistants etc), anyone involved in ministry to children and young people (Sunday School teachers, youth group leaders etc) and anyone else who is involved in a ministry area within your church.

Monika and I will be facilitating the training as a team. We will endeavour to provide as much training as possible in 2012, to try and cover as many of the congregations as we can. If your congregation is interested in hosting a training event, please let me know. The preferred day is Saturday. You will need to allow at least 5 hours for the training session (eg commence at 9.30am, lunch at 1pm and conclude by 3pm). For larger groups, more time may be required.

The cost will be \$30 per participant. The minimum group size will need to be 15 participants (to cover costs). Host congregations will be asked to provide morning and afternoon tea for the group. Country congregations will also be required to provide accommodation for the trainers (billets in people's homes is fine).

Please discuss within your congregation and let me know possible dates as soon as possible, so we can get a training calendar up for the rest of 2012.

# GOD AT WORK—YOUR CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN ALL OF LIFE

BY GENE EDWARD VEITH, JNR

A Book Review by Glenn Crouch

As Lutherans, I think we are often a bit ignorant of Luther's work on the Doctrine of Vocation. I know I was! In this book, Veith presents an engaging overview for 21<sup>st</sup> Century audiences (though he bases his book on the older work by Gustaf Wingren: *Luther on Vocation*). I think this is an excellent read for all Christians.

Luther argued that locking yourself away to serve God was not some higher calling. From the beginning, God has called us to be Husbands and Wives as well as Parents and Children – so these are important callings. He has given us different talents. I have skills with Mathematics and Computers but am hopeless at Carpentry, Plumbing, Auto-repair and the like. By giving us different talents, we are reliant on one another. In fact, our different talents make it easier to be able to “Love your Neighbour” – and this is how we best serve God.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer and ask “Give us our daily bread”, Luther points out that God answers this prayer through the vocations of the Farmer who grows the grain, and the Baker who makes the Bread – and we could add the Driver who delivers the bread, and all those in the Retail side of things that sell the bread. Hence all these people, even if they are not Christians, are having their vocations used by God to answer prayer. In similar fashion, God heals through the vocations of Doctor, Nurse, Dentist, Pharmacist, etc – and whilst we fully acknowledge God's power to do great miracles – we tend to overlook His power to work through our vocations.

Early in the book, Veith looks at both “what is a vocation?” and “finding your vocation?” – however this is no cheesy “self-help book”. He sees (and argues that Luther sees) vocation as our calling from God. He then moves on to chapters covering our calling as a Worker; as a Family Member; as a Citizen; and as a Church Member. He concludes by an examination of “bearing the cross” in vocation and an excellent chapter on the Ethics of Vocation (eg God does not call you to be a Thief nor run Ponzi Schemes). The Epilogue is on “Resting in Vocation” – which is a great place to finish ☺

So often we get depressed that we don't have the gifts that allow us to be the charismatic evangelist spreading God's Word. Rather we should rejoice in the fact that God has called you to be a Husband; a Wife; a Father; a Mother; a Child; a Brother; a Sister; a Footballer; a Netballer; a Student; a Church Member; an Employee; a Boss; a Voter; a Tax Payer; etc... God is working through you in these various “hats” that we wear and since we all have many vocations, this book is worth the read to gain some much needed perspective.



**19 March—100 years young**  
**Ruby Mullineux nee Kowald**  
**(member at St Stephen's**  
**Katanning)**  
**Her baptismal birthday is**  
**21st April.**

### ***Meditation:***

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

--John 8:12 (NIV)

### ***Quotation:***

The titles of God are virtually promises. When he is called a sun, a shield, a strong tower, a hiding-place, a portion. The titles of Christ, light of the world, bread of life, the way, truth, and life; the titles of the Spirit, the Spirit of truth, of holiness, of glory, of grace, and supplication, the sealing, witnessing Spirit; faith may conclude as much out of these as out of promises. Is the Lord a sun? Then he will influence me, .  
Is Christ life? Then he will enliven me.

... David Clarkson (1622-1686),  
*The Practical Works of David Clarkson*

### ***Reflection:***

Lord, in You we receive repeated renewal.

Most of my life, I was good at facilitating other people's needs. I looked around and constantly asking people: 'is there anything I can do to help you?' Of course I didn't do this to gain something in return.

Not long ago I was completely lost and I needed help. I didn't know where and who to turn to. Because I thought that others had their own stuff to deal with; because I thought that my problems were insignificant; and because I thought that others might gossip about my situation. It was also so painful to admit that I was imperfect and whatever I was doing wasn't enough.

One Sunday morning, I asked God what I must do to find my way back. Then a word popped up in my head. Pray! But I didn't know how to pray. Praying did not come naturally to me and I often felt awkward praying. I also felt so selfish to ask God's help after all this time being away from him. And praying for my needs only, didn't seem so fair.

In that afternoon, once again I found myself utterly lost and didn't know who to turn to; I asked God to teach me how to pray. I drove up to the church hoping that God would appear to me and tell me how to pray. If I know me at all, I am a real and practical person and whatever God would do with me, had to be real and practical.

When I got to the church, I saw Annie (Pastor Ku's wife at St John's Chinese Church). I hesitantly asked her for a chat and I briefly described my situation. She said that she didn't know why God wanted us to meet in that afternoon. She also said that she had a feeling of talking to me about the power of prayer. She began to write down the following four steps in praying. The steps were: Adoration (worshiping God), Confession (confessing my sins), Thanksgiving (thanking God for what I have now), Supplication (praying for others) then praying for what I wanted, and finishing with the Lord's Prayer.

I had such a difficult time confessing my sins and giving thanks for my situation. Yes, I confessed my sins being a human and my imperfection in God's eyes. But when I confessed my sins and being forgiven by God's grace what more was there to confess. And how could anyone be thankful for losing what it felt like everything. Then, I found my answers in the Lord's Prayer in the book of Matthew (6:9-13) and Luke (11:2-4).

*This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

What was my sin? I was unable to forgive everyone who sinned against me. What I could be thankful for? I could be thankful for my daily bread. I remember Annie's emphasis on forgiving. She said that I must forgive everyone who sinned against me so I could be forgiven through God's grace. I understand that it is not easy and often forgiveness can be given when offenders say sorry.

I have been practising, forgiving. But I didn't know how to forgive the unforgivable things. So I prayed that I would learn to forgive those unforgivable things. Then I was given a wonderful Christian counsellor who helped me to understand myself thus I could see myself in others and grow a compassionate heart to forgive them.

I prayed that I would have wisdom to deal with conflicts in my day to day life and began reading the book of Proverbs. Amazingly, for the first time I attended the Thursday ladies' Bible study group at St John's not knowing that their study book was: The Beginning of Wisdom Proverbs Vol.1.

More amazingly, I prayed that God would give me the knowledge of being a good Christian woman. Then I bumped into my Korean pastor from fourteen years ago, encouraging me to join his Bible study group where he has been teaching what it meant to be a man and woman in a family.

Between these prayers, I prayed many other things and my prayers were answered each time. I have experienced the power of prayer. Jesus said "...ask and it will be given to you... (Luke 11:9)." I asked and they were given to me. Also, Jesus added "...seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you (Luke 11:9)." I ask myself; what must I do now? I can only conclude that I just have to ask through prayers, seek and knock on the door.

So here is my prayer. My Lord, thank you for answering my prayers so I could trust in you to find my way back. Amen.

## 2012 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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20 June	28 June
11 September	20 September
4 December	13 December

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