## 2024 Annual Report of the Vice President for Outreach (VPO)

The 2023/24 year has been an exciting year. We continue to have thriving secretariats and successful weekends continue to abound. Sadly we have had a few secretariats decide to close their doors, or limit their events to Ultreyas only. Together with the Regional Coordinators and Brian Comeno, President of the NLS, we have supported the communities around the country through email, phone calls and inperson meetings. I am continually grateful for the hard work and dedication of the Regional Coordinators. Brian continues to hold Lay Director Round Table Zoom calls that the previous NLS president, John Aclin, started. The RCs hold quarterly sessions with the Lay Directors in their regions. I hold regular meetings with the RCs as well. These calls and connections continue to lead to important discussions about how to accommodate necessary changes without sacrificing Via de Cristo essentials. We welcome these discussions and encourage communities to share how they are facing their challenges with one another. The RCs were instrumental in helping the NLS Executive Committee to recognize some limitations and missing components and have prompted us to create new positions and develop EOIs in an attempt to address these shortcomings. You will see some of the things we are working on at this year's Annual Gathering!

At last year's AG we were able to fill all seven RC positions! These seven individuals continue to work hard for all of you! I am blessed to have these wonderful people to work with. This year begins my last year as VPO. I have enjoyed serving on the NLS Board. I believe in the work that we are doing for Christ and look forward to finding other ways to serve as I move off of the board in 2025. If anyone is interested in running for this position in 2025, I am available for questions at any time.

Respectfully Submitted Karen Weires Vice President for Outreach <u>VPO@viadecristo.org</u>

