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Continuing the Spirit of Augustana

A Message from the Executive Director, The Rev. Dr. Hartland H. Gifford

“We are again reminded that here we have no abiding city.” These words from the Augustana liturgy immediately came to mind on May 13, 2004, when I heard of the untimely death of the Rev. Dr. Donovan J. Palmquist. Donovan was committed to the Augustana Heritage Association. He served as Executive Director from the very beginning. His skills and dedication helped to foster and further the goals that have brought us to where we are. He will be sincerely missed, but his influence will continue to be a part of all that we do.

It is my privilege now to serve as Executive Director of this organization, having been elected at the Gathering in St. Peter. I pledge to you that I will be faithful and energetic in carrying out the duties with which you have entrusted me.

One of the first things that I must attend to is the planning for the next Gathering. It will be in September 2006, at Lake Chautauqua, NY. I will be working with the Rev. Paul Cornell, who was elected president of AHA in St. Peter, along with a group of committed persons who have agreed to serve as the planning committee. In addition, my wife Judith Johnson Gifford, has agreed to use her professional meeting planning skills to keep us all on track.

AHA has a mission statement that I judge to be completely expressive of what this organization is trying to do. Someone asked me recently what AHA is. I responded by sharing our mission statement. But I was struck by the fact that I could not offer it by memory, which prompts me to suggest that if anyone should ask you what we're all about, tell them that we are "continuing the spirit of Augustana." It's short and to the point. It may require elaboration if someone is looking for details, but in the broadest of strokes, it is what I think we're all about.

It is my hope (and prayer) that AHA will continue to look to the future, building on the past, using the present to be a positive influence in the ELCIC and ELCA. We have done some good things already, but there is much more we can do. Space does not permit me to elaborate on my ideas here, but perhaps

the editors will allow me space in future issues to share my thinking with you.

In the meantime, thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve. Please take every opportunity offered you to do the same. Invite others to share in our efforts. Augustana was truly a family. And so is AHA. I trust you are eagerly looking forward to our next "family reunion" in 2006.

The Rev. Dr. Hartland H. Gifford
Executive Director



Rev. Dr. Hartland H. Gifford with his wife Judith Johnson Gifford

The Augustana Lutheran Church at its Centennial ordained the Rev. Dr. Hartland H. Gifford in 1960. He is a graduate of Upsala College and Augustana Seminary. His doctorate is from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

He served parishes in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Connecticut before becoming a staff member of the Division for Parish Services of the Lutheran Church in America in 1973. He is currently Pastor Emeritus of St. Paul's, Catasauqua, PA where he served for eleven years before retiring in 1999. He has written and edited over forty books, programs and brochures, mainly in the area of stewardship. His latest publication is "The Heritage of Augustana" which he co-edited with Dr. Arland J. Hultgren. Following his retirement, he served as Interim Pastor of St. Peter's (Hanover), Allentown, PA. He continues to be involved in transitional ministry in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, serving on the Synod Committee for Interim Ministry. He and his wife Judith Johnson Gifford reside in Schnecksville, PA. They have two sons, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

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The purpose of
the Augustana Heritage Association (AHA)
is to define, promote and perpetuate
the heritage of the
Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church.

CONTENTS

Cover Message from the New Executive Director
from Hartland Gifford

3 Touching Three Centuries in Three Days
Editorial by Arvid E. Anderson

4 Memorial Tribute to Donovan Palmquist
by Paul Cornell

5 A Tribute to Reuben Swanson
by Herbert Chilstrom

6 Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: A Report of the AHA
Gathering 2004
by Jonathon Kraatz

8 Sermon
by Harold Skillrud

11 Educational and Social Ministry Institutions

11 Beginnings of Institutions in Canada
by Donald Sjoberg

12 Augustana's TTT Schools
by Hilvie Gross

15 Mosaic: A 170 year old Tradition
by David Jacox

16 Educational Institutions from the Past into the Future

16 Liberal Arts Education
Inaugural address by Steven Bahls

20 Message from the New President
by Paul Cornell

20 News and Announcements

23 Legacy and Mission
by Bishop Craig Johnson

Touching Three Centuries in Three Days

Editorial by Arvid E. Anderson

More than 600 Augustana folks and friends traveled to the Augustana Heritage Association Gathering at Gustavus Adolphus College for a three day visit, June 25-27, 2004. We were soon immersed in the Augustana spirit which has carried us far beyond a weekend gathering. We had traveled, as announced, "Unto a Good Land", and surely it was. Not only had the immigrants from Sweden found it so in the 1850's and ever since, but we found it so at G.A. College, founded by Eric Norelius. How could it not help be "good" as we walked the campus with its Christ Chapel at the center, surrounded by fascinating sculpture and art of all kinds, and ventured by bus to churches in the area whose histories go back, in some cases, to immigrant days and the time of Eric Norelius.

Be it morning devotional time, festive worship in the evening, and gatherings in between, music was everywhere, all the way from the "Björling on Björling at Björling" event, to the National Lutheran Choir, and to the Gathering Choir. There is no way to describe what Augustana folks may have felt when they picked up their Heritage hymnal, "Songs from Two Homelands" and sang the hymns which are Augustana through and through. The deep inner feeling has to be something next to ecstasy.

Two program events carried us through the time line of the Augustana Synod, 1860 and beyond, in drama form. One was "The Lutheran Home Companion Show" in which the source of the scenes was the publication, "The Lutheran Companion," which came into people's homes for generations. The cast of this drama made the stories from the "Companion" come alive as the news stories from the Synod were played out to show the conflicts, humor, and dedication in Augustana.

The other drama-like event was the Sunday morning presentation of "The Music of the Augustana Synod" written and narrated by Charles Hendrickson. Here was Augustana Music in the making from the earliest days of the Synod. We all sang hymns but we did it with the chancel presence of "Eric and Charlotte Norelius", "Oskar Ahnfelt" composer, "Dr. Olof Olsson", "Lina Sandell", "and Dr. Carl J. Sodergren" and more. Even a voice spoke for Garrison Keillor and his experience of singing "Children of the

Heavenly Father" with a few thousand Lutherans!

Any observer visiting from another Lutheran heritage or denomination may have had a question: "Will this time line ever get beyond the 19th and early half of 20th centuries"? Back in 1998 during early plans for an Augustana Heritage Association, some Augustana voices raised the same question, "Is this mainly a sentimental journey to the past"? However, the theme at this G.A. College Gathering was far broader: "Unto a Good Land: Augustana Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

The emphasis on "Today and Tomorrow" became clearer, for example, when Dr. Bromander from Sweden reported on his research on the relationship between the Church of Sweden and its society, now that the "state Church" concept has changed. It was further emphasized in the Interest Group session on the current issue of 'globalization'. The presentation and discussion was about "Globalization Guidance from our...Augustana Heritage" where human rights can be linked to religious piety.

As we gathered for the inspiring and festive communion service on Sunday morning, the sermon reminded us of the mission of our AHA in the 21st century. The Rev. Dr. Harold Skillrud summed it up this way: "Ours is a very different church in 2004 (ELCA) compared with the Augustana Lutheran Church in its last year of 1962...We looked forward...We have ordained women and cherished their gifts...welcomed ethnic minorities as members and clergy...accepted persons of a different sexual orientation into our congregations and made them feel welcome. "

In three days we had touched three centuries from 1860 through the 1900s to 2004. The Gathering was an exciting and inspiring experience for so many Augustana friends and acquaintances. It was like another family reunion! See you at Chautauqua in 2006! AHA



Donovan Palmquist at his retirement, October 14, 1994



Donovan and Dorothy Palmquist



Donovan and Dorothy at the 2002 AHA Gathering, Lindsborg, Kansas



Donovan Palmquist, May 2004

Memorial for Donovan Palmquist

During the hymn sing and devotional time at the AHA Gathering on Friday evening, there was a memorial tribute for Donovan Palmquist who passed away suddenly on May 13, 2004. Donovan's wife Dorothy and her family were present. Donovan served as Executive Director of the Augustana Heritage Association since its formation, and was one of the inspirational leaders in the Association's development. He will be greatly missed.

Paul Cornell gave the memorial tribute to Donovan. Following the tribute, Dorothy Palmquist spoke for herself and her family, and members and friends of the Association had an opportunity to greet Dorothy and her family.

The Tribute Based on Luke 12:35-40 By Paul Cornell

“**B**e ready for action, with your robes hitched up and your lamps alight. Be like people who wait for their master's return from a wedding party, ready to let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. Happy are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly I tell you: he will hitch up his robe, seat them at table, and come and wait on them. If it is the middle of the night or before dawn when he comes and he still finds them awake, then they are happy indeed. Remember if the householder had known at what time

America. "Well, Paul", (after the formation of the Heritage Association 2000) Donovan said, "I think we can plan gatherings through 2010."

But - "will come at the time (you) least expect him." There will be a 2010 gathering at Augustana College in Rock Island but without Donovan. In the suddenness of Donovan's death, our right arm is gone! Ever planning, ever optimistic, ever even-tempered, ever bringing his wide smile and humor to most every situation, no wonder this magnificent Association

has continued apace. Results under this leadership include: Hymn books - two of them; two books capturing the essence of

"... will come at the time you least expect him."

the burglar was coming he would not have let his house be broken into. So hold yourselves in readiness, because the Son of Man will come at the time you least expect him."

A friend for 54 years, singing with him in the Augustana Seminary Chorus, a member of Betty's and my wedding party, and an intimate colleague for the past seven years in preparing the first gathering at Chautauqua of the Augustana Heritage Association and the activities of the Swedish Council of

Chautauqua, Rock Island, and Lindsborg Gatherings; a new history of the Augustana Church, a heritage trip to Sweden. All out of the genius of Donovan's mind and heart. His continuing energy and vitality was a gift and blessing to us all.

At the Swedish Council of America's recent meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, his leadership in the Development Committee's task was off the table and beginning to bring in new and meaningful results. That Saturday night, after the Council's Award of

Merit dinner, Donovan and I talked about St. Peter and this Augustana gathering. The conversation then moved to 2008. Donovan had ideas of a west coast venue. "We will talk about it in St. Peter, Paul." His last words to me as we got off the bus at our hotel were, "Thanks for a good meeting, and I'll see you at Gustavus Adolphus."

"... will come at the time you least expect him."

When Donovan traveled to Jamestown, New York in the spring of 1997 to assist Betty and me and the local committees appointed to the September '98 gathering at Chautauqua, he brought with him the experiences of previous gatherings of Augustana people. His insights and leadership were very evident in that event and all subsequent events.

I know that the pending new history book of the Augustana Church will conclude at the end of the year of our Lord 1962. A

chapter in the new history book will include post 1962 Augustana history and particularly from 1998 and onward for another book - remembering the giants that have walked among US even after 42 years of "non-existence."

"...will come at the time you least expect him."

And by his side for 50 years, we remember Dorothy, his beloved wife, and their children, Donovan, Heidi, Daniel, and five grandchildren. A group of vibrant, loving people who gave to Donovan their gifts which shone through him in all of his life as he gave them his gifts throughout his life.

Donovan's gifts to us - in the memory of the Augustana past - give us energy for today and tomorrow. "...so hold yourselves in readiness because the Son of Man will come at the time you least expect him." Amen AHA

A Tribute to Reuben Swanson - Retiring as President



Reuben Swanson

All of us who have been involved with the Augustana Heritage Association have been impressed with the excellent response we have had since our founding in 1998. Though it's now been more than forty years since Augustana contributed its life to the founding of the Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, interest has been strong. With attendance at our last event running well over 600 we know that AHA is meeting an important need in one part of the church.

From its beginning we have been guided by sterling leadership. Not least among these persons is The Rev. Dr. Reuben T. Swanson. Reuben served as our president from the beginning until 2004. Those of us on the AHA Board will all testify to the skillful and efficient leadership he has given us. His experience as parish pastor, synod president, national church secretary and membership on numerous boards of directors has made him the ideal person to guide our birth and early years in the AHA. He represents the best of Augustana.

Reuben has reminded us again and again, however, that our purpose in the AHA is *more than remembering our past*. Reuben has inspired us to think about the ongoing contribution Augustana can make to the church of today and tomorrow. We will miss him at the helm. We are grateful that he will continue as a member of the Board of Directors.

Darlene Swanson, Reuben's faithful companion in all that he does, also deserves our thanks for her contribution to AHA. Whenever Reuben attends a meeting, we come to expect that Darlene will be with him. Her cheerful and engaging personality has enlivened all of our board meetings as well as our biennial Gatherings.

Thank you, Reuben and Darlene, for all you have done to help launch the Augustana Heritage Association. May the Spirit of God continue to be your Guide and Helper in the years to come.

Herbert W. Chilstrom



Augustana Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow: A Report from the 2004 AHA Gathering at Gustavus Adolphus College by Jonathan Kraatz

"Rejoice, all ye believers!" rang out in Christ Chapel on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College as more than 600 gathered to celebrate the music, heritage, and legacy of the Augustana church.

The 2004 gathering of the Augustana Heritage Association "Unto a Good Land: Augustana Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow" began Friday, June 25 with an opening worship following the Augustana Advent/Christmas liturgy.

"It took me back to my childhood," said Mary Ann Anderson of Fergus Falls, Minn. "I could picture our pastor from my childhood - it was wonderful."

"Songs from Two Homelands," a collection of popular traditional hymns, provided musical texts for the worship services and devotions, stirring voices and memories alike. The hymnal also includes the liturgy of the Augustana tradition.

The gathering offered many opportunities to reconnect with old friends, classmates, and others from across the country who

share a common tradition.

Delores "Dede" Pederson, a member of Bethany Lutheran in Onamia, Minn., reconnected with classmates from her time at Luther Academy, Gustavus Adolphus College, Bethphage Mission, and Immanuel Deaconess Institute. She was also surprised at the distance some delegates traveled - Rhode Island, California, and Texas.

"This is the first gathering we've attended, but we have followed them with interest over the years," she said.

"The best part has been the fellowship," Pederson added. "It's also been fun to listen to the hymns, because many haven't been in the newer hymnals."

With God and His mercy, His Spirit, and Word, and loving communion at altar and board, We meet with assurances the dawn of each day...

"The Augustana Lutheran Church has a rich heritage for spiritual growth," Pederson said.



Photos courtesy of Wayne Schmidt, Photo Shop Studio



During the gathering, delegates participated in "interest group" discussions throughout the day Saturday. Topics ranged from the impact of the mission field on the families of missionaries and women as overseas missionaries, to the musical tradition of the Augustana Synod and an update on the state of the church in Sweden from Dr. Jonas Bromander, a researcher in the Department for Research and Culture of the Church of Sweden.

Maria Erling and Mark Granquist, both historians with familial ties to the synod, updated those gathered on their progress toward a published history of the Augustana Synod in 2006 focusing on the impact of the synod on the current Lutheran church and on Protestantism in America, particularly from 1900 to 1962. Erling is a professor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Penn., and Granquist is a professor of religion at Gustavus.

*O Church, keep building to that home, a future without fears,
For children's children still to come, through everlasting years.*

As younger generations become further removed from memories of the Augustana Synod, its legacy becomes more important.

"The legacy of Augustana is education," said Paul Anderson, of

Fergus Falls, Minn., "and providing strong leaders for the church."

The colleges established by the Augustana Synod - Luther Junior College and Academy (now merged with Midland), Augustana, Upsala, Bethany, and Gustavus produced many graduates who became and continue to be pastors, missionaries, and lay leaders.

Church leadership is tied to a third component of the legacy: dedication to mission. "The legacy of the Augustana Synod," said the Rev. Ted Granquist, "is the sense of mission and the church as something greater than the members gathered."

These qualities, along with the writings of Mark Granquist and Maria Erling, will continue to influence upcoming generations - many who may never know the name Augustana but will recognize its mission and call.

*God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide,
uphold you With his sheep securely fold you, God be with you
till we meet again...* in 2006 at Chautauqua, New York. **AHA**

Jonathan Kraatz is director of News and Information at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn.

Top, left to right: Guests at the Christmas in June Dinner; Anders Björling presents "Björling on Björling at Björling"; Stephen Hogberg, emcee for Gathering 2004, from Office of Institutional Advancement, Gustavus Adolphus College; Lloyd Stivers, Sioux Falls, SD, liturgist for the Advent/Christmas service

Bottom, left to right: Lutheran Home Companion cast (l to r: Elsa Cornell, Narrator, Lennart Vretholm, Steve Benson, Susan Pepin Peterson, John Tammi, Jack Swanson, organist); Maria Erling leads devotions; Don and Beverly Gustafson, St. Peter, as Eric and Charlotte Norelius; Gathering 2004 Choir



Sermon

Augustana Heritage Association Festival Worship Service

June 27, 2004

By The Rev. Harold Skillrud

4th Sunday after Pentecost (3rd Sunday after Trinity)

Appointed Readings: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62

As you heard the Lessons read this morning, you noted, as I did when I first received this assignment, that a common thread unites them: It's a warning not to be overly preoccupied with the past.

In the Old Testament Lesson Elisha is admonished to leave his home and occupation in order to become Elijah's successor. He not only burns his bridges behind him, but he actually burns his 12 yoke of oxen to prove his readiness.

In Galatians Paul reminds the young Christians to abandon their former ways, their attachment to the sins of the flesh, in order to live into the freedom of the Gospel.

And in today's Gospel Jesus reminds us, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

All are appropriate reminders to us this weekend that a blind preoccupation with the past can actually hinder rather than advance the kingdom. Most of us here today are in our 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s, and nostalgia reigns supreme among us. Our minds are sharpest when we reflect on events of the distant past, rather than on the happenings of yesterday. And, of course, there are memories that are appropriate, not least when we reflect on the 102-year history of our Augustana Lutheran Church. In fact I would argue that the last decade of Augustana's life was its finest. In that period from 1953 to 1962:

Membership in congregations reached its height. The post World War II boon in spirituality led to the development of new missions at home and abroad. Together with the other Lutheran bodies that now make up the ELCA we numbered 6,000,000 members at that time, compared with 5,000,000 today. When compared to the American population as a whole, we were 50%

larger then.

Our Church Colleges were strong in enrollment and support. Funding from the Church and Conferences was considerably higher than it is today. Evidence of this is the beautiful Chapel in which we are gathered, gift of Minnesota Conference congregations just prior to the ELCA merger.

Our willingness to be open to changes in liturgical style, in order to make a united Lutheran advance in evangelism and new mission development, led us to surrender the beautiful Augustana liturgy we enjoyed today, in favor of the Common Service in the new *Service Book and Hymnal of 1958*.

It was the decade when we joined forces with the United Lutheran Church in America to invite all Lutherans to form one Lutheran Church in America. We succeeded in bringing four groups together, and our Augustana ecclesiology made a permanent impact on the new Lutheran Church in America.

A steady supply of candidates for ordained ministry found their way to Augustana Seminary - an average of 52 incoming Junior students during the 1953-63 decade. In fact, my class, ordained in 1954 in Los Angeles, was the largest ever with 80 men being ordained.

Rounding out that last decade was the decision to merge Augustana Seminary with four other seminaries to form the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. For the sake of the larger good, we surrendered our beloved school and campus.

It was indeed a Golden Decade.

Fortunately, we did not stop our forward movement in order to

savor our delicious past. We "put our hand to the plow" in order to turn new soil and thus extend the kingdom:

We Expanded Our Ordained Ministry to Include Women

Prior to this time each class of ordinands was exclusively male. The collection by Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium 1850-1962*, contained 2,504 names - from Lars Esbjom to Gerald Youngquist, whose class was ordained 42 years ago this very day - all men.

In 1963 I was a LCA delegate to the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Helsinki, Finland. In one of my small discussion groups was a woman from Schleswig-Holstein in northern Germany, who identified herself as Pastor Grosch. She was a formidable looking woman, actually looked like Martin Luther. There was no doubt she was certain of her credentials. I had met my first woman Lutheran Pastor. I was impressed. Returning to the United States, I learned that our Church was undertaking a study of women's ordination. By 1970, convinced that there was no Scriptural prohibition, the LCA began ordaining women.

Last week, while on a Board of Pensions assignment at the University of Delaware, I happened upon Pastor Beth Platz, the first woman ordained into the Lutheran Church in North America. We chatted about the differences women in ordained ministry have brought - the positive contribution of woman pastors, the fact that our seminaries now number up to 50% women. The Church has been blessed. By looking forward, we have put a restrictive tradition behind us, for the sake of the advancement of the kingdom.

We Expanded Our Outreach to Include Ethnic Minorities

There were few ethnic minorities in the Augustana Ministerium. I remember listening to Pastor Jesse Route when he spoke at First Lutheran Church in Rock Island in 1951. He spoke of graduating from Augustana Seminary some years earlier, but the church fathers had no place for him to serve in the Augustana Lutheran Church at that time, so he was transferred to the United Lutheran Church in America who found a place for him in New York. Similarly, there were few ethnic minorities among the laity in our congregations. My first congregation was typical. I came to St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Illinois, following my ordination in 1954. The congregation had been organized in 1872 by Augustana's President at that time, Pastor T. N. Hasselquist. Eighty-two years later it still consisted primarily of members of Swedish descent. As the grandson of Norwegian immigrants, I helped integrate the congregation. Though there were a number of bona fide ethnic minorities in this community of two universities and the headquarters of the world's largest auto insurer, few found their way to St. John's. In 1979 I was called to the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta, GA. There in the South, which for many years had

resisted any form of integration, I was shocked to see an African American family worshipping at Redeemer. Having learned that Dr. and Mrs. Alonzo Crim and son, Tim, were members of Redeemer, that he was the Superintendent of Schools in Atlanta, that he held honorary degrees from several ivy league universities, I made it a point to have a luncheon appointment with him. I said to him, "Dr. Crim, we are delighted to have you and your family at Redeemer, but I am puzzled that one of the large and prestigious Black congregations such as Ebenezer Baptist or Big Bethel, did not recruit you. How did this happen?" "That's simple," he replied with a smile. "I have always been a Lutheran. Tell me, have you ever heard of Pastor Philip Johnson?" I replied that I had, and that I knew he had served as Pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Chicago, a well-known Augustana Church, which at one time had been served by Dr. Conrad Bergendoff. "Well, then," he continued, "you know that the neighborhood around Salem went through a racial transition. While most white congregations fled to the western suburbs, Pastor Johnson insisted that Salem would remain and continue to minister to the community. My mother was so impressed," he added, "that she sent me there to Sunday School and I have been a Lutheran ever since." That was just the beginning of progress in this area for Redeemer and many other congregations.

Yes, we have made some headway. We are far from the heady goal we set in 1987, that the ELCA would have 10% membership of persons of color or whose primary language was other than English, but we have made great strides. Witness the front cover of the current edition of the LSTC *Epistle* - it features a photograph of our successor seminary's first African American Lutheran Professor, the beloved Dr. Albert "Pete" Pero, now retiring after a long and meaningful teaching ministry. Read in that same issue an article about the diverse student body at LSTC, and the "President's Message," by the school's first African American President, Dr. James Kenneth Echols, who states, "Our unity in Christ frees us to express and rejoice in our cultural diversity."

We are not yet where we want to be, but we are light years from where we once were, because "we have put our hand to the plow," and removed a mighty obstacle to the kingdom's advance.

We Expanded Our Concern for the Marginalized and Disenfranchised Persons of Different Sexual Orientation

I mentioned earlier the congregation I first served in Central Illinois. Over the 25 years of my ministry there, with growth in the congregation and a high mobility rate in the community, over 5,000 persons passed through our doors at St. John's. Yet, in all those years, I came to know only five persons of a sexual orientation different from my own. Why? Because that's all there were? You know better than that. It was a time in society

and church when one dared not to reveal a different orientation for fear of alienation, persecution, job loss, and discrimination.

When I moved to Atlanta in 1979, I was confronted by several members who sought out their new pastor to share their vision for the congregation, to inquire about my style of ministry, to see where I stood on certain issues, especially the controversial ones. Several of those who came were gay. They said to me that they had found a home at Redeemer, that they were accepted in the congregation, that they felt comfortable there, and wondered what my attitude would be. I had to be honest and say, "Frankly, I am rather naïve in this area. I know little beyond what I have read. Tell me about yourself." One by one they shared their life stories. There was a common thread. None had chosen this orientation. They gradually realized as they matured that they were different in terms of sexual attraction. One acknowledged how his parents had spent thousands of dollars, to the point of almost losing their home, in order to get him "re-programmed." But it didn't work. He was the same individual who later moved into a small, neighboring town in Central Illinois, rose to positions of leadership within his congregation, until word got out that he was gay. Then, at a formal congregational meeting, involving even the President of that Lutheran Church body, he was excommunicated. I heard many such stories of pain. I assured those who came that they would still feel comfortable at Redeemer so long as I was Pastor. As an expression of support, on several occasions, I conducted house blessings where gay couples had purchased a home together.

One day I was accosted by a member of the congregation who felt my stance was inappropriate. My response was that if every member of Redeemer was as dedicated as its gay members, contributed of their time and money as generously, were as loving and compassionate toward others as our gay members, we would turn Atlanta upside down. I never heard from him again.

Today, we are facing some serious issues in this area in the ELCA. It is one thing to make persons with a different sexual orientation welcome in our congregation. It's quite another to deal with the Blessing of same sex couples or the Ordination of persons in a same sex relationship. I do not know in what form resolutions will come before our ELCA in 2005. I only hope that the openness we have shown in the past to a healthy consideration of controversial issues will prevail, and that the ELCA will not implode over these matters. I hope that the unity we have in Jesus Christ will be sufficient to enable all of us to live together in this one Church, despite differences in this area. When I read in the Book of Acts how Paul and Peter and the early church engaged in heated debate over the question of how much of Jewish tradition the Gentiles were expected to embrace in becoming Christian, I am convinced that there were those who were not pleased with the final resolution. They probably

went to their graves feeling that Paul and his associates were wrong. But, they did not leave the Church, nor did they form a competing sect, but they remained a part of the Body of Christ in which they had been baptized. I pray the same for us.

Why the Gains?

Ours is a very different Church in 2004 compared with the Augustana Lutheran Church in its last year of 1962. Grateful for the last Golden Decade, which ended with the formation of the LCA, we "put our hand to the plow." We looked forward. We sought the guidance of the Spirit as we faced continual change. We ordained women, and cherished their gifts. We welcomed ethnic minorities as members and clergy. We accepted persons of a different sexual orientation into our congregations and made them feel welcome.

How were we able to make these changes, both in the days of Augustana, and in the years since? How could we be convinced that the Church would not self-destruct in the light of monumental changes? There were two reasons:

First and foremost, we believed the promise that Jesus spoke to Peter, when proclaiming that He would found the Church on this rock. He promised that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." This is Christ's Church! It is not our Church. He has promised to watch over and preserve it. The Church will survive because this is Christ's promise. This gives us confidence as we face a future that will inevitably bring more change.

Secondly, in plowing the furrow, we have kept our eyes focused on the hallmark of our faith, "we are saved by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." We have kept before us the meaning of Martin Luther's seal: the black cross that depicts our sin, the red heart which symbolizes the blood of Christ shed for our sins, the white shield that speaks of our hope, the blue sky which depicts heaven, and the gold rim which tells us that our life in Christ is eternal. Justified by faith in Christ Jesus, we see no need to try to justify ourselves before God or anyone else. This gives us the freedom to be open, to listen to the voice of God, to change in ways that conform to God's will.

Grateful for our past, but not overly preoccupied with it, "we put our hand to the plough," removing any impediment to the advancement of the kingdom, as we seek to be faithful as His Church today! **AHA**

Harold C. Skillrud lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with his wife of 53 years, Lois Dickhart. Both graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1950. He attended Luther Seminary for one year, and graduated from Augustana Seminary in 1954, the year of his ordination into the Augustana Lutheran Church.

continued on page 20

Education and Social Ministry Institutions in Augustana

Three Historical Accounts

Augustana's institutions and agencies provided foundations and directions for continuing ministry into the Lutheran Church in America and the ELCA. Three of those institutions are described in the articles that follow. In the first article, Donald Sjoberg describes the early Education and Social Ministry Institutions in the Canada Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church. The second article by Hilvie Gross is a fascinating story of Augustana's Parish Education program called Teacher Teach Teacher T T T that spread through the Conferences of the Augustana Church.

The third article: "Mosaic: A 170- Year-Old Newborn!" sketches the impressive social ministry of Bethphage, founded in Axtell, Nebraska and became a far reaching social ministry institution known throughout the Augustana Church for 91 years. Dr. David A. Jacox, President and CEO of "Mosaic," describes how Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes, also of Nebraska, merged to form "Mosaic" which represents 170 years of accumulated service when the histories of the two institutions are recounted.



By Donald W. Sjoberg

Editorial note: In 1962 when the Augustana Lutheran Church merged to become a part of the Lutheran Church in America, the Canada Conference had 49 congregations and 10,507 members. Donald Sjoberg was born in Manitoba, Canada, studied at the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon Lutheran Seminary. He was ordained in the Augustana Lutheran Church in 1954. In the Lutheran Church in America he served as Regional Secretary for the Board of American Missions, and became President of the Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church in America beginning in 1970.

A modest attempt at a Lutheran High School began in 1912 at Perceival, Saskatchewan, with 3 teachers and 32 students. The school continued for two years while consideration was given to other locations, including Winnipeg, Manitoba. However, changes in leadership followed by the First World War prompted the Conference to discontinue the idea of a High School.

Years later an invitation came to the Canada Conference to participate in the Saskatoon Lutheran College and Seminary (ULCA) in Saskatoon. This resulted in a cooperative agreement whereby Augustana students could receive their theological education in Canada and an Augustana professor would be on the faculty. In 1945, Dr. Oilbert T. Monson was called as Pastor the Augustana Lutheran Church in Saskatoon as well as Augustana Professor at the Seminary.

The ideas for a Lutheran Children's Home and Lutheran Home for the Aged were put forth shortly after the Canada Conference was organized in 1913. Funds were slowly collected and eventually combined to make possible the opening of the Lutheran Home for the Aged in 1943 at Wetaskiwin, Alberta. This institution has grown to become Good Shepherd Lutheran Social Service Society, operating Lutheran Home, a Group Home, and the Touchstone Stop-In Centre. **AHA**

Augustana's TTT Schools



The headquarters of the Augustana Lutheran Church, 2445 Park Ave, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Parish Education offices were on the third floor. (January 1952)

By Hilvie Olson Gross

The date for my graduation from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas was fast approaching in the spring of 1951. Though only 25, I had already taught elementary school for 6 years, while saving money for college. I really didn't know what or where I wanted to teach next. I had begun applying for schools, and had had one interview in a small Kansas town.

On campus the morning after that interview, I met Pastor Emmet Eklund and he asked, "Have you signed a contract yet?" I told him I hadn't. He answered, "Good!" He had learned that the Augustana Lutheran Church's Board of Parish Education was seeking another staff member in order to expand a new program for training church school teachers. The new staff member should have a college degree in education and should have had teaching experience. He told me that both he and Miss Gladys Peterson had thought of me.

Miss Peterson, my elementary education teacher, told me more about the opportunity. She had long believed and taught that a crucial way to spread the good news of Jesus Christ was before children grew up, within the Sunday School education time. She convinced me that the Augustana Church opportunity was God's calling for me.

As a teenager teaching in country schools during World War II, I had earnestly prayed for peace. I had expressed my view that, if I could learn more about the causes of war, I would do what I could to "seek peace and pursue it" (Psalm 34: 14). In fact, one of my goals when returning to Bethany as a fulltime student in 1949 was to find an answer to the question, "Why wars?" Under the influence of Bethany's Alma Louise Olson, Pastor Eklund, Dr. Emory Lindquist and Miss Peterson, along with my own research, I had come to realize that there was real relationship between Jesus' "least of these" and history's "haves vs. have-nots", one root cause of war. I had also become aware that our churches seemed to underemphasize church schools and Sunday School teaching.

Becoming a TTT Leader

Upon Miss Peterson's recommendation, Pastor Lael H. Westberg of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Augustana's Executive Director of the Board of Parish Education, came to Lindsborg to interview me. Although my actual Sunday School teaching experience was minimal (I had attended the Youth Bible Class because our church hadn't needed teen-aged teachers), I was hired with the understanding that I would be trained.

The new program was called Teacher Teach Teacher. TTT Schools were being scheduled in every conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church. In each conference, capable teachers were recruited for each age level for leadership in each district. The national staff would meet with the recruits for a Friday evening and Saturday training session, including an actual demonstration class with children. The recruits would become district teams and teach similar sessions in their own districts, Teachers Teaching Teachers.

On August 1, 1951, I moved by bus from my Vermillion, Kansas farm home, to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and began working at the 2445 Park Avenue headquarters. Coincidentally, Ruth Swanson of Gowrie, Iowa started work the same day. She had attended a TTT school in Des Moines, Iowa and had become excited about it. She asked Ernestine Sanden, the pioneer staff person for the program, how she might serve in the program. Ruth was an experienced teacher, and a veteran church school teacher. Her specialty was early childhood education.

Starting my Work

My office was a portion of the center hallway on the third floor of the headquarters building. My colleagues: Ernestine, Ruth, Pastor Westberg, and Pat Lundquist all had to walk through my hallway niche to go to and from their offices. They all helped this farm girl adjust to life in the metropolitan area. Still, I felt ill-prepared for the mission.

In response to my need for experience in teaching Sunday School, the team arranged mini TTT School for my training at

the Messiah Lutheran Church across the street. I was thrilled and impressed with the program.

I became responsible for the Junior Department, the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. We used the Christian Growth Series, a three-year cycle. My first task was to become familiar with the series and its emphasis on living the Christian faith at each age level. Ruth Swanson took responsibility for the Nursery and Kindergarten departments. Ernestine did whatever was not done by others. Later in 1952-53 Erleen Lindeman of Salina, Kansas was on the staff with responsibility for the Primary Department. Pastor Westberg, our team leader, led an opening doctrinal Bible study, and worked with pastors and administrators. We had about a month to prepare for our first TTT School, which was October 5-6, 1951 in Lindsborg, Kansas.

TTT Resources and Services to Congregations

We developed materials to help teachers understand the children of the age level, the value of "doing" rather than just listening, and planning aim-centered lessons. We made charts and aids for working with both the teachers and the children who would come for the demonstration classes. I especially appreciated the emphasis on the Bible and its role as a guide for life. I would summarize the biblical application to modern living as a part of the handouts I prepared for each unit.

TTT Schools were held that fall season in Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois. During January and February we conducted schools in California, Florida, and Texas. Most often we traveled by train. Each of us was issued a "clergy" pass, which allowed deducted fares.

We would go to the train station with heavily loaded baggage carrying reference books, curriculum workbooks, and all other teaching materials. After arriving at our destination our entire team would tour the host church and select locations for the general assembly and for each department. We would have to consider setting up for the demonstration classes with the children, and for the 3-5 hours working with the teachers. We met some wonderful teachers and interesting children. At the closing session Pastor Westberg would challenge the teachers to practice in their home congregations, in preparation for leading conference and district workshops where these teachers would teach other teachers.

Churchwide Travel

During my first three years we visited each of the conferences at least once. In September 1954, Ernestine, Ruth, and I spent a week in Alberta, Canada with TTT Schools in Edmonton, Calgary, and the remote village of Czar. A local pastor provided transportation and led the Bible study as substitute for Pastor Westberg.



TTT School staff - l to r Pastor Westberg, Ernestine Sanden, Ruth Swanson and Erleen Lindeman (early 1950's)

During one month of each year, I traveled along to congregations in selected conferences to conduct sessions focused on the congregation's total education program. One year I visited the northern parts of the Columbia (Northwest) Conference, including British Columbia. Ruth and Ernestine had other sections of the Church. One year I spent a month in Nebraska and another year a month in Texas.

My supplies for three two-hour sessions would include use of three filmstrips with records for the leadership education series which had been developed. There were sessions for church staff, council persons, and church school teachers of the congregation.

Various Publications and Resource Materials

Pastor Westberg edited a monthly magazine, "The Church School Teacher," and he frequently asked us to write articles for it. Each of us wrote, "Helps for the Teachers" focusing on our own departments before each new quarter of the Christian Growth Series. Bible background materials were included, along with topics on the Catechism, church history, and worship. Delores Kanten edited the Church School story papers, and we helped her correlate them with the curriculum.

Delores Kanten asked me to write a weekly column for Junior Life called "For Your Family Devotions". My pen name was "Mary M". I selected and listed seven Bible references from the particular week's lesson, and included these references in real life adventures of a fictitious family.

Cooperative Youth Work and Parish Education

During 1954 the Boards of Youth Activities and Parish Education decided to offer joint workshops for high school



Hilvie Gross at the TTT School in Seattle (March 1952)

Bible class teachers and youth sponsors. It was decided that Pastor Westberg and I would represent Parish Education, while Pastors Wilton Bergstrand and Carl Manfred would represent Youth Activities. Pastor Manfred and I conducted "Together for Christ and Youth" workshops in the fall of 1955 in Iowa and New York Conferences. The plan was to reach the entire Augustana Church in three years.

A Dramatic Change in Plans!

In 1954 I received a Christmas card from Jack Gross, whom I first dated at Bethany College. He was still single at age 41 and wondered where I was. I wrote back to him. My experiences during these years had taught me that the family is more important for teaching children than any school. While I was creating the "family" for my weekly column in *Junior Life* I must have wished for my own family. I began to yearn to live again in the real world.

Jack and I became engaged during the summer of 1955, and were married on December 19, 1955 at my home church near Axtell, Nebraska. We made our first home in Holywood, Kansas where Jack was in his 8th year of public school music teaching. On a weekend in November 1956, Pastor Manfred and my successor led a "Together" workshop in McPherson, Kansas. Jack and I drove there from our Great Bend home to greet them and to introduce our 3 week old baby daughter.

Parish Education Leading Toward the LCA

With my new challenge as a mother and homemaker, I lost contact with Parish Education. I know that Ernestine Sanden also left the staff to be married about the time I did. Soon the Augustana energy was focused on the coming merger into the Lutheran Church in America. Pastor Westberg accepted a call to the English speaking people in Stockholm, Sweden. Ruth Swanson moved with the merger to Philadelphia to have a leadership role in the Christian Education work of the LCA. Later

she became an assistant to the Bishop of the Ohio Synod with responsibility for Christian education. She retired to her home town of Gowrie, Iowa and passed away in 2003 at the age of 90.

Contact with Educational Ministry in the LCA

After we moved to Rising City, Nebraska I enjoyed regional training sessions for the Educational Ministry teams in our Synod. I recognized similarities to our TTT Schools in Augustana. We met in departments according to age level or interests. We were given "designs" to use in follow up contacts locally. After the national LCA invested so much in time and resources, it was disappointing that the Synod did not do more to promote our mission of enhancing Sunday School teaching.

I hope that in our ELCA churches today there is opportunity for children, youth and adults to grow in their Christian faith as they express it in their daily lives. I pray that Christians will "seek peace and pursue it" and not simply enjoy the familiar Bible stories. That is what we strived to do through Augustana's TTT Schools. **AHA**

Hilvie Gross: A True Friend of Children and Youth



Hilvie Gross in Marysville (May 2002)

The biographic account of Hilvie Gross which best indicates her life-long interest and commitment to the education of children and youth comes from the publication of the AALILB (now Thrivent) in March/April 2001. She was honored as Fraternalist of the year. She told her own story: "I attended country school

when I was a child, I taught country school, and I love country school... While on a trip to California in the early 50's, Hilvie saw a country school house being used as a museum and thought about all the possibilities that a country school house held for her community. Some years later, Hilvie bought a schoolhouse at auction and had it moved to her back yard.

Over the years, Hilvie has used the schoolhouse for a variety of activities, including a museum, yearly art festival and contest, and a location for a disaster relief benefit concert. Each summer she invites neighborhood children to have a real, one-room school experience, and the kids love it! Hilvie has the children do lessons and recitations in front of the "class" and brings in special guests from the community to speak on a number of topics.

Hilvie and the RespecTeen officer hosted a half day of activities for the children of low income families. They invited youth from the area churches to help with the event, serving as mentors to the younger children."

Editorial note: Hilvie Gross lives at 2101 Arbor St. Apt. 116,

Beatrice, NE 68310-2664. Her phone number is 402-223-5818. She has four adult children. She lives near her son, Jonathon, who is a Geology, Civil and Environmental Engineer - and is head of the company he founded in Omaha, NE. Hilvie's husband passed away 2 1/2 years ago.

MOSAIC:

A 170-year-old newborn



By Dr. David A. Jacox

Excerpts taken from "Mosaic" publication Jan. 2004

Had the historic consolidation of Martin Luther Homes and Bethphage not occurred on July 1, 2003, the organizations would have celebrated their 79th and 91st birthdays this year. This is an impressive accumulation of experience totaling 170 years. But consolidate we did, and at this writing, Mosaic is six months and 15 days old. An interesting question comes to mind: "Is Mosaic a venerable institution of 170 years or an infant of six months?" It is a good question for debate, as one could easily argue either position.

Even so, Mosaic enjoys the heritage and reputation of two magnificent organizations. Gifts received throughout our first Christmas season as Mosaic confirms the loyalty and generosity of you, our benefactors. Only a venerable institution with a storied history and a solid reputation could enjoy such support.

Now, Mosaic staff must learn how Mosaic systems work to ensure good communication, so that we work effectively with one another to provide the best care possible to people with disabilities.

In a sense, we arrive in a new organization at a position of evaluating our experience. While occasionally uncomfortable, it is freeing when the best practices of predecessor organizations can be brought together to create a Mosaic way that is better than our prior individual experiences.

So it seems obvious to me that the answer to the question, "Is Mosaic a venerable institution with over 170 years of life or a six-month-old infant with a lifetime of learning ahead?" is "yes!" to both choices. Mosaic shares the enviable feeling that every person old enough to reminisce has shared, saying, "If only I could be young again, but know what I know now".

Please pray for Mosaic, that we may fully realize the opportunities before us, and let me say, "Thank you," on behalf of the whole Mosaic family for your continuing interest and support.

AHA

Editorial note: For a comprehensive story of Bethphage, see the NEWSLETTER, Vol. No.2 Spring 2003, for Maurice Burke's article, "Bethphage: 90 years of God's Love for people with disabilities; Renowned ministry proud of its Augustana Heritage."

Educational Institutions from the Past and into the Future

Augustana Educational Institutions serve as a natural setting for the Gatherings of the Augustana Heritage. They are deeply rooted in Augustana's formation and history. At the same time they are excellent liberal arts schools today, preparing young people for leadership in the future.

The Augustana Heritage Association was organized at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL during the Gathering in 2000. In 2002 Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS welcomed the AHA for the Gathering. We are still in a celebration mood from the 2004 Gathering at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN. Another institution of the Augustana tradition was Luther College, Wahoo, NE which became a part of Midland College, Fremont, NE., an ELCA institution.

Within the recent past, three of the colleges have inaugurated new presidents: Bethany College in 2002; Augustana College in 2003; and Gustavus Adolphus College in 2004. In this issue of the Newsletter, we include a copy of the forward-looking inaugural address of Dr. Steven C. Bahls, eighth president of Augustana College at the installation ceremony on October 10, 2003. It is entitled: "Liberal Arts Education and Courageous Servant-Leadership."

Liberal Arts Education and Courageous Servant-Leadership

By Dr. Steven C. Bahls

At his inauguration as president of Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois October 10, 2003

Editorial note: All of the basic content of the presentation is included here. However, some of the introductory comments directed to the large audience who attended Dr. Bahls' installation have not been included, as well as the footnotes which identify source references in his presentation.

The Determination of Our Founders

As many of you know, this college was founded in 1860, when pastors and delegates met in Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin, to organize the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod in North America. At that time, they approved the constitution for a school of theology, the Augustana Seminary. From its inception, the school was committed to the liberal arts. This included teaching theology, history, geography, mathematics and the natural sciences, plus six languages: Latin, Hebrew, Greek, English, German and, of course, Swedish.

What would motivate our first president, Lars Esbjörn, to establish a college on little more than a hope and a prayer? Was it foolhardy optimism? I believe it was courage, drawn from a deep and abiding faith. The primary mission of Augustana was to train servant-leaders: pastors and teachers who would minister to the needs of new immigrants from Sweden. Our founders were inspired by Martin Luther's views about the importance of

a liberal arts education in understanding the Bible. Luther wrote: "I am persuaded that without knowledge of literature, pure theology cannot at all endure, just as heretofore, when letters have declined and lain prostrate, theology, too, has wretchedly fallen and lain prostrate..." Luther was equally eloquent in his writing about the importance of languages, history, poetry, rhetoric and the natural sciences.

The challenges faced by our country when President Esbjörn founded the college remind me of the challenges facing us today. Like today, America in 1860 was facing an information revolution: April of that year saw the creation of the U.S. Pony Express. There was also a technological revolution on the horizon that would change the fate of history and culture: That year saw the invention of an internal-combustion engine powered by coal gas. In November of 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president. One month later, South Carolina seceded from the Union, the event that helped start the Civil War. Conrad Bergendoff, the college's fifth president, wrote that "Days of

shadow lay before the new institution" from its beginning. But its founders believed that what this country needed in troubled times was a generation of well-educated servant leaders. Augustana has always shed light on the shadows, firmly believing that knowledge and faith are indispensable in addressing challenges and seizing opportunities.

Through its history and despite its many challenges, Augustana's presidents have persevered. Presidents Hasselquist, Andreen, Bergendoff and Tredway each served for more than 25 years. Near the end of his long tenure, President Bergendoff observed that when he took office in 1935, no one could have predicted the growth in communism, the splitting of the atom, or the orbit of man-made satellites in space. When Dr. Tredway was appointed in 1975, could he have predicted the global epidemic of AIDS, the ability to clone and bioengineer, the Internet revolution or the events and aftermath of September 11? As we gather today, what events that we can scarcely anticipate now will change the world over the next 15 to 20 years?

Like the early years of the college, these are both challenging and promising times. There are joys and heartbreaks ahead, many of which we cannot fathom today. How, then, should a liberal arts college prepare its students for the complex challenges of today and the more complex challenges of tomorrow?

The answer, I submit, is found in the enduring values the college has held throughout history. Those values are, first, an unshakable fidelity to the teaching of the liberal arts and sciences, and, second, a steadfast commitment to preparing students who are courageous servant leaders. I pledge to you that I will uphold these values as long as the stewardship of Augustana College is in my hands.

Augustana's Enduring Commitment to Liberal Arts and Sciences Education

Let's explore the first of these values, the teaching of the liberal arts and sciences. Eight years before President Osborn assumed office, John Henry Cardinal Newman delivered the lectures in Dublin that grew into the seminal work "The Idea of a University." I first read this book when I was a college student and have never forgotten it. I don't know if President Osborn was influenced by Newman, but I'd like to think he was. In writing about the relationship of theology to knowledge, Newman made a forceful and eloquent case that knowledge is valuable for its own end. He said that those educated in the liberal arts "apprehend the great outlines of knowledge, the principles on which it rests, the scale of its parts, its lights and its shade, its great points and its little.... A habit of mind is formed which lasts through life, of which the attributes are freedom, equitableness, calmness, moderation and wisdom."

We know this to be true today. People who have an active "life of the mind" live longer, are happier and have healthier relationships. Newman recognized, however, "that the training of the intellect, which is best for the individual itself, best enables him to discharge his duties to our society." He argued that a citizenry educated in the liberal arts and sciences is important in "raising the intellectual tone of society, at cultivating the public mind, at purifying the national taste, at supplying true principles to popular enthusiasm and fixed aims to popular aspirations, at giving enlargement and sobriety to the ideas of the age, at facilitating the exercise of political power, and refining the intercourse of private life."

Newman also spoke of the relationship between a liberal arts education and professional skills training. He was correct in cautioning that professional training is not the "sufficient end" of a liberal education. Newman understood, as we understand, that professional education, when offered within the context of other studies, has an appropriate place. He said: "I say that a cultivated intellect, because it is good in itself, brings with it a power and a grace to every work and occupation which it undertakes."

He cautions professors in professional programs to view their professions "from a height" – height" by that he means professions should be viewed within the larger "survey of all knowledge." Professional studies, he argued, must gain from other disciplines "a special illumination and largeness of mind and freedom and self possession." Jaroslav Pelikan elaborated on Newman's views in his more recent book, "The Idea of the University: A Reexamination." He noted that in order "to qualify as a profession, an occupation or activity must involve some traditions of critical philosophical reflection." Training for professions, it follows, is best within the context of the liberal arts so that "training is informed by... reflection" and "can be carried on in its full intellectual context." Newman's words hold as true today as when he spoke them shortly before our college's founding.

I also agree with Martin Luther that faith is strengthened by knowledge. I feel the majesty of God when new ideas give me insight into truth and the human condition. I see the hand of the Creator when I learn about the natural and social sciences. I relish the times I see the Lord's signature in great art, music and literature. And I believe that there is a twinkle in God's eye when our faculty works with our students to discover and create new ideas.

There are many opportunities at Augustana to help all of our students explore their spirituality. We must seize these opportunities. If we do, the mastery of knowledge for many of our students will help them touch the hand of God. In my favorite

Bible verse, the prophet Micah calls us to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." A liberal arts education well equips our students to live that way. I would submit, furthermore, that the grounds for helping our students grow in body, mind and spirit are particularly fertile at a church-related liberal arts college. At Augustana College, we are deliberate in working with all students to find their vocation, their life's calling. To Augustana students I would say: ask not what you want to be; ask who you want to be.

There is no doubt that America is stronger because of its liberal arts colleges. The skills most demanded by today's employers are not technical skills, they are critical thinking skills, creative thinking skills, problem-solving skills, interpersonal skills and an appreciation for cultural and ethnic diversity. No wonder graduates of residential liberal arts colleges are nearly three times more likely than the typical college graduate to be on the Forbes list of the nation's most successful CEOs, and also nearly three times more likely to be Peace Corps volunteers.

Augustana's Enduring Commitment to Courageous Servant-Leadership

Now let's consider the second fundamental value of the college, the commitment to courageous servant-leadership. The book of Mark says "Those who desire to be great are first servants." Robert Greenleaf, a longtime executive at AT&T, said that servant-leadership "begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead." Augustana College has practiced servant-leadership since its founding. Esbjörn and the presidents who followed him were themselves servant-leaders. In 1860, our mission was to train servant-leaders to minister to the needs of the immigrant Swedish Lutheran community in Illinois. Today, we prepare servant-leaders of all faiths and all ethnicities, to meet the challenges facing our global village in this new millennium.

Today's student needs a new generation of role models who understand the principles of servant-leadership. The excess and breaches of trust we see in governments, corporations and other institutions make it clear America needs a new type of leader. There are no finer groups of people to help today's students acquire the skills and values of servant leaders than the faculty and staff at Augustana College. Their commitment to helping students find their vocation is a model for other colleges and universities. When students first come to Augustana College, only 27 percent say they want to be community leaders. By the time our students graduate, that number increases dramatically to 63 percent. Our students are committed to doing community service, committed to diversity and committed to social justice.

The World War II generation is commonly regarded as the Greatest Generation because of its commitment to the common

good. I believe that today's college students share many of the same commitments and will be the next Great Generation. In addition, members of this generation demonstrate a deep commitment to public service, they cherish cultural and global diversity, and they can manage multiple tasks at once. As important, this generation is delightfully idealistic. For our students to be the greatest generation, my generation must be faithful to its most noble calling, to provide a quality education to all in the next generation, whatever their background.

Augustana students, I believe, have the potential to make important contributions to this next Great Generation. Augustana's students have a record of outstanding achievement among all colleges and universities. Our athletes rank fifth in the number of Academic All-Americans, in the company of large NCAA Division I powerhouses like Nebraska and Notre Dame. Our students rank sixth in the number of appearances in the National Debate Tournament, in the company of elite institutions like Dartmouth and Harvard. We are proud of the high percentage of our students who go on to graduate schools.

Members of the Augustana community exhibit a special type of servant-leadership: courageous servant leadership. The seven college presidents to go before me shared this important trait. They had courage. President Osborn did not wait until financial uncertainties were resolved before he founded the college. Likewise, in the 1880s, President Hasselquist and other Swedish immigrants had a dream of building one of the finest college buildings in the world, right here in Rock Island. Though the cost of the building far exceeded the cost of any other edifice built by Swedish immigrants, they persisted, and the result was Old Main, an enduring symbol of our college. Generations of students have benefited from their courage. The tradition of courageous presidents continued as Dr. Tredway led the college to build some of the finest library, science and technology buildings in the nation.

Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about courage in 1961 in his sermon entitled "Transformed Nonconformists." His words seem like they could have been written yesterday: "In these days of worldwide confusion, there is a dire need for men and women who will courageously do battle for truth.... We must make a choice. Will we continue to march to the drumbeat of conformity and respectability, or will we, listening to the beat of a more distant drum, move to its echoing sounds? More than ever before," Dr. King said, "we are today challenged by the words of yesterday, 'Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind'."

The Challenges Ahead

Do we have the courage to be excellent? Do we have the courage to build on Augustana's reputation as one of the finest

liberal arts colleges in our land? It will require us to be transformed nonconformists who use the resources entrusted to us in ways both creative and brave. For the administration, we must have the courage to develop a strategic plan to use our resources wisely. For our faculty, we must have the courage to go the distance as we revise our general education curriculum and consider requiring a senior-year capstone experience. For our students, courage entails pushing themselves academically, even when it is uncomfortable to do so. For our friends and alumni, courage means continuing to invest their time, talents and treasures in making sure the college is rich in human and intellectual capital.

I would be remiss not to mention that each member of our community must be courageous in helping to prepare a more diverse group of servant-leaders. This past summer Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, in a landmark Supreme Court decision, observed: "In order to cultivate a set of leaders with legitimacy in the eyes of the citizenry, it is necessary that the path to leadership be visibly open to talented and qualified individuals of every race and ethnicity. All members of our heterogeneous society must have confidence in the openness and integrity of the educational institution that provide this training. "Let us all commit to do our part to cherish the "marketplace of ideas" that is the natural fruit of diversity.

Augustana College is at an important point in its history. We can solidify and advance our position as one of America's finest residential liberal arts colleges. Though our endowment is small in proportion to our aspirations, student credentials and the level of student applications are at an all-time high. We have a faculty, staff and board as talented as at any point in our history. Our campus is beautiful. Would you agree that there is no single word to better describe this college than "brilliant?"

The opportunities ahead are tremendous. We'll endeavor over the next five years to build a stronger endowment, so the quality of our educational program is secure and an Augustana education is available to all high-achieving students regardless of need. With the help of our alumni and friends, we'll continue upgrading our physical facilities in a way that enables the college to deliver the highest quality education. We'll do more than talk about greater diversity; we'll take affirmative steps to achieve it. We'll build strong relationships with the community, modeling for our students our belief that service to the community is a critical part of servant leadership. Great colleges need great cities, and great cities need great colleges. We'll do our part to serve the Quad Cities. We'll cherish our affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as we engage in a dialog about the nature of our connectedness.

But most of all, we'll heed Dr. King's call to listen attentively to the distant drum calling us to be courageous as servant leaders, with the object of providing a world-class liberal arts education

to the generations to come.

Permit me, please, to insert a personal note. To make this presidency as great as past presidencies, I'll need your help. A strong president needs an empowered faculty and courageous administrative team. An effective president needs visionary trustees. No college president can be effective without alumni and friends who actively work for the advancement of the college. No president can do it alone. I ask for your prayers that I will honor the college in all my actions and that I, too, can be a courageous servant-leader. Let me close with the words of President Gustav Andreen: "God has been with our fore-bearers and with us their children. Surely He will also direct the footsteps of coming generations so they may walk upon his paths and accomplish His work."

If our Swedish fore bearers were here today, they would say "Gud Valsinge Augustana College." God bless Augustana College. **AHA**

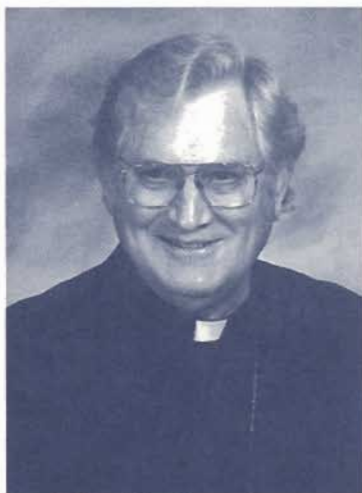


Dr. Steven Bahls

Dr. Steven Bahls was born in Des Moines, Iowa. Prior to his installation as the eighth president of Augustana College, he was dean at Capital University Law School, which is the largest of Ohio's nine law schools and is the only law school in the nation affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He had served as associate dean and professor at the

University of Montana School of Law in Missoula, Montana. President Bahls also practiced corporate law with a Milwaukee law firm, and was also a C.P.A. He earned his law degree at Northwestern University in 1979, where he was the head executive editor of the Northwest University Law Review. He has taught a variety of courses in business law and agricultural law and has written widely in scholarly publications and magazines. He has taught in Canada, England, Germany, Greece, China and Italy.

In 2003, he and his wife, Jane, celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary. She is a graduate of Cornell College and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. She is a freelance writer and director of a church Logos Program. They have three children. Two sons are in college: Daniel and Timothy; their daughter Angela is twelve years old. Dr Bahls enjoys photography and has published photos in several national travel magazines.



Harold C. Skillrud

He received his S.T.M. from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago in 1969, and has honorary doctorates from Augustana College and Newberry College. He was a mission developer in Syosset, New York, during his internship. He was pastor for 25 years of St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, IL and served 8 years as pastor of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta, Georgia.

He was elected the first Bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod and served eight years until his retirement in 1995. He is Bishop Emeritus of the Synod. Since then he has been serving as a part-time Regional Representative for the ELCA Board of Pensions.

Harold and Lois have three children and nine grandchildren. They live at 318 Wesley Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30305-3824

A Greeting From The New President of AHA

A week after the 4th Gathering at Gustavus Adolphus College, the melody rings in my ears! Kudos to the Planning Committee, the presenters, the worship leaders, the musicians, the GA staff and all participants at the memorable event!

On behalf of the Heritage Foundation, I want to express our warm thanks to Reuben Swanson for his four years of leadership as president of the AHA. His leadership in these formative years has been most beneficial. He will continue as a member of the Board of Directors.

As your new president, I hope to continue the course set before us. Together with our new Executive Director, Hartland "Giff" Gifford, I look forward to the task!

A Planning Committee has been formed to prepare the Gathering event # 5 at Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, New York. Note the slight change in date announced at St. Peter. The dates are September 14-17, 2006 - Thursday-Sunday. Look for information in succeeding Newsletters.

News & Announcements

Board of Directors and New Officers

One of the program items at each Gathering of the Augustana Heritage Association is a business meeting for all members of the Association. In addition to reports from the officers, committees, treasurer, and any other business, there is the election of new board members. There are twelve members on the Board with a limited number of terms for each.

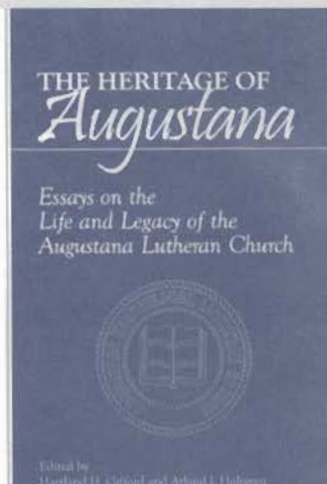
This year four Board members were elected. Two of them were re-elected for two-year terms; Carol Lindstrom Luedtke and Carol Burton Orescan. Two were re-elected for four-year terms: Peter Beckman and Kathryn Segarhammar Swanson. Two new members were elected for four-year terms: J. Roger Anderson and LaDonna Martin Chalstrom.

The Board elected the following officers: Paul Cornell, President, after Rueben Swanson declined to be re-elected; Kathryn Swanson, Vice-President; Elsa Orescan, Secretary, and Peter Beckman, Treasurer. Hartland "Giff" Gifford is the new Executive Director, following the untimely death of Donovan Palmquist.



Front row: Peter Beckman, Gordon Swanson, Reuben Swanson, Hartland Gifford, Kathryn Swanson; **second row:** LaDonna Martin Chalstrom, Maria Erling, Elsa Orescan, Arvid & Nancy Anderson (editors of the Newsletter; not board members), Ruth Ann Deppe - AHA office at LSTC; **third row:** Paul Cornell, Donald Sjöberg, Arland Hultgren, Herbert Chilstrom, J. Roger Anderson. (Not present: Carol Luedtke)

News & Announcements (con't)



News Special!!! New Publication

Just off the press during the AHA Gathering at Gustavus Adolphus College is the new publication: "The Heritage of AUGUSTANA - Essays on the Life and Legacy of the Augustana Lutheran Church," Edited by Hartland H. Gifford and Arland J. Hultgren.

The book is "Dedicated to the Memory of Donovan J.

Palmquist (July 14, 1928-May13, 2004) With Thanksgiving for His Life." It is published by Kirk House Publishers, PO Box 390759, Minneapolis, MN. 55439 and can be ordered by toll-free phone (888-696-1828). Or you may get it by calling Ruth Ann Deppe at the AHA Office at LSTC in Chicago (800-635-1116 ext. 712). The cost is \$25.00 per copy plus \$3.50 for postage.

"The Heritage of Augustana" is a 297 page book that contains the written versions of 28 presentations made at the Augustana Heritage Association Gatherings at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois in 2000 and at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas in 2002. Essays include Augustana's relationship to the Church of Sweden, the planting of the church in Illinois and Kansas, worship, theology, social consciousness, global outreach, Augustana and the Mission Covenant Church, and personalities such as Emmy Evald and Conrad Bergendoff.

Authors include Peter Beckman, Mark Granquist, Nils Hasselmo, Norman Hjelm, Kathleen Hurty, Harold Lohr, Doris Spong, Byron Swanson, and a number of others.

This publication, "The Heritage of AUGUSTANA -Essays on the Life and Legacy of the Augustana Lutheran Church," is a companion volume to the first publication in 1999: "The Augustana Heritage - Recollections, Perspectives, and Prospects," Edited by Arland J. Hultgren and Vance L. Eckstrom following the AHA Gathering at Chautauqua, NY in 1998. It was a 301 page publication of the presentations made at the Chautauqua Gathering. It is available at the Augustana Heritage Association office at LSTC in Chicago. Call 800-635-1116 ext. 712.



Dr. Maria Erling at Gustavus Adolphus Chapel

"Augustana Heritage" written by Dr. G. Everett Arden. Two history scholars who have come out of the Augustana Church are the writers: Dr. Maria Erling, a professor of the History of Christianity and Global Mission at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA and Dr. Mark Granquist, Professor of Religion at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN.

Maria and Mark are children of Augustana pastors. The AHA is fortunate to have these competent and dedicated scholars in charge of this history project. They reported their progress during one of the interest groups at the Gathering in St. Peter, MN in June. They welcomed reactions and encouraged suggestions.

The budget for this project is \$160,000. The AHA is well on its way toward the goal with initial pledged: one for \$25,000; three for \$10,000 and one for \$5,000. Many more significant gifts are needed. Those who give \$1,000 or more will receive a copy of the book and be listed in it as a donor. Whatever you are able to give is greatly appreciated. Gifts may be given over a period ending December 31, 2004. Mail your gifts to the Augustana Heritage Association, 1100 East 55th St., Chicago, IL 60615-5199.

Ninth Annual Augustana Worship Service at Normandale

September 26 2004, marks the 9th year for a historic Augustana Lutheran Worship held at Normandale Lutheran Church of Edina, Minnesota, scheduled for 2:30 p.m. The service uses hymns and liturgical resources of the former Augustana Lutheran Church.

News & Announcements (con't)

The ELCA is strengthened by the nourishment it receives from the piety of predecessor bodies. This service celebrates anew the multifaceted piety that Augustana brings to the ELCA. We gather to sing historic hymns and celebrate Holy Communion using liturgy from the first half of the 20th century. The preacher for the 2004 service is Bishop Craig E. Johnson of the Minneapolis Area Synod.

This annual worship experience is appealing to members of congregations whose roots are in the Augustana tradition. Clergy and musicians of our synods who were reared in the Augustana Church and/or attended Augustana Seminary and the colleges of the Augustana Lutheran Church are among the most ardent supporters. Persons unfamiliar with Augustana find this new service easy to assimilate.

Call 763-529-1998 if you have questions: Dr. John Swanson, Organist

Place and Date of the Next AHA Gathering

Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, New York is the site for the 5th Gathering of the Augustana Heritage Association. The dates are September 14-17, 2006. The first AHA Gathering was held at Chautauqua in 1998. The succeeding Gatherings were at Augustana College in 2000; Bethany College in 2002; and Gustavus Adolphus College in 2004.

Paul Cornell, president of the Association, has invited a planning group to begin the planning process. Its first meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2004 in the WilkesBarre/Scranton, PA area.

The planning committee will have the benefits of information from the competent Planning Committee of the Gustavus Adolphus Gathering in which they carefully evaluated and made suggestions for the future following the event held in June 2004.

Explore the Augustana Heritage Web Page

www.Augustanaheritage.org is where you will find our Web Page. It provides a full menu of information about the AHA. You will learn about: The history of the Augustana Church; the history and purpose of the Heritage Association; list of current events; membership information; access to past copies of the Newsletters, and more.

If you have comments and suggestions about the Web Page,

contact Kathryn Swanson, vice-president of the AHA Board of Directors. Her e-mail address is: kswanson@clunet.edu; her phone number is 970-484-7767.

AHA Membership for the Calendar Years 2005 – 2006

In the past, membership in Augustana Heritage Association was from Gathering to Gathering. Due to reporting and accounting to the IRS, it is much more feasible to have a calendar year as opposed to a fiscal year. The Board of Directors approved this change of membership, beginning in January 2005 to December 31, 2006. If you have not enrolled for the 2005-2006 period, please send your membership enrollment and contribution to the **Augustana Heritage Association, 1100 East 55th St., Chicago, IL 60615-5199.**

Individual Membership(s) _____ @ \$30/person
Congregations/Institutions/Agencies _____ @ \$100
Subscription(s) to *Sweden and America* _____ @ \$10/two years

Make your check payable to Augustana Heritage Association

Name _____

Name (spouse) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

The Augustana Heritage Newsletter, a biannual publication, goes to each member.

Letters to the Editor, Comments & Articles are Invited

Send your letters, comments, complaints, and suggestions to the editors: Arvid and Nancy Anderson, 1234 Colonial Ave., Roslyn, PA 19001 arvinanc@msn.com. Articles for the Newsletter are always welcome. They will be acknowledged and used as they fit into the themes that emerge from available articles and as space allows. **AHA**

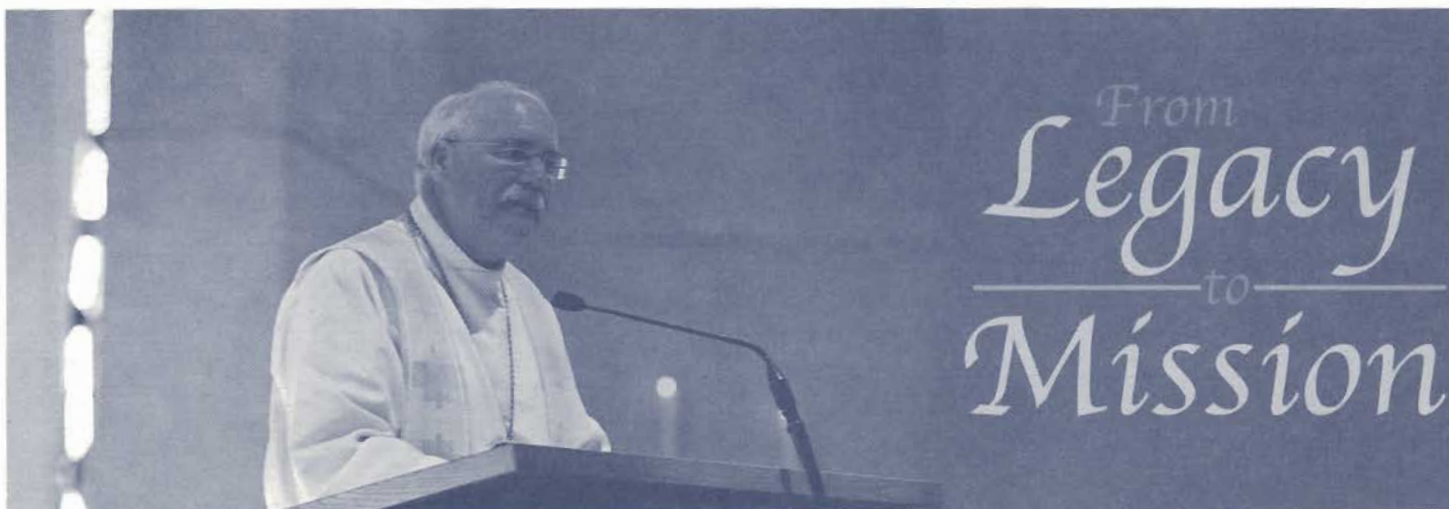


Photo courtesy of Wayne Schmidt, Photo Shop Studio

Bishop Craig Johnson at the Gustavus Adolphus Chapel

By Bishop Craig Johnson of the Minneapolis Area

Editorial note: The following are excerpts from his homily at the AHA Gathering in the Christ Chapel of Gustavus Adolphus College on Friday, June 25, 2004. The worship service was based on the Advent/Christmas Liturgy of the Augustana Lutheran Church. The scripture lesson for the service was John 1:1-20.

About a decade of Christmases ago, I went to an elderly Swedish American man's home for the purpose of doing a little research on a Christmas sermon. He had grown up in deep poverty on the Iron Range in Minnesota near Hibbing. I asked him "What were Christmases like for you back at the turn of the century?" He said, "We would all get in a sleigh on Christmas Day, go to the early Julotta service, come home and later that morning we all exchange gifts." "And what kind of gifts did you receive?"

"Every year my sister and I got a brand new pair of mittens." "Anything else?" "No, just mittens." "And how did you feel about that?" "We were thrilled with the gift and showed them off at school." "What else did you do?" "Later on we went out to the cows and for Christmas Day gave them an extra helping of feed."

I think it is important on days when we gather as an ethnic community to remember where we came from. We were strangers in a strange land and we knew poverty. It was a close companion...Our heritage has known poverty and being alone and far from home. In the Minneapolis area these days we have new immigrants among us. We need to remember that we were there once too, and we need to care for fellow strangers in a strange land. They are people who are a close companion of poverty. This was us one hundred years ago.

In preparation for this sermon I was thinking that to celebrate heritage, which is not connected to mission, can be a restrictive, putsy activity. But a heritage that is connected to mission, and that has vision towards a legacy, becomes living and exciting.

Last Saturday something very important happened in the Minneapolis Area Synod. I think I can safely say that finally we have a real Swede on the clergy roster in our synod. I ordained Alem Hagos who came here from Sweden just a couple of years ago. Before that, he lived in Sweden since he was a little boy, attended seminary in the Church of Sweden, and continued his doctorate study at Luther Seminary.

Alem happens to be an Ethiopian Swede - and very proud of it. His family speaks Swedish in their home, whenever they are together, in order to keep that part of their heritage alive. The Church of Sweden was instrumental in the work of the Mekane Jesu Church in Ethiopia and Oromia. They did outstanding mission work there.

What Alem's ordination meant is that Swedish heritage and its mission, and now its legacy, all came together in Minneapolis last Saturday. Alem will be continuing in mission to African immigrants on the west bank of the Mississippi river for years to come. He will be successful. He is incredibly persistent.

And what is our mission?...Our mission was given to us by Jesus himself, to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and "to remember the poor" as Paul was admonished by the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem. Jesus was very concerned about the poor.

When a heritage and mission and legacy come together, God must indeed smile for the risen Christ, the Christ Child, has been served and we are indeed being disciples. AHA