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My Augustana Heritage and My Service as Presiding Bishop

By Herbert W. Chilstrom & Donald W. Sjöberg

Introduction

Herbert Chilstrom was elected as the first presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its formation in 1988 and served for two terms. Donald Sjöberg was elected as the first presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada at its constituting convention in 1985 and served for two terms. It is significant that both Churches, the ELCA and the ELCiC, selected leaders from Augustana heritage as their first presiding bishops.

Chilstrom and Sjöberg were invited by the editor of the AHA Newsletter to each write an article as to how his Augustana background was helpful in serving in the office of presiding bishop. Their responses, along with their pictures, and biographical notes are found here.

Herbert W. Chilstrom

It would be presumptuous for me to suggest that being born and raised in the Augustana tradition equipped me in some special way to be a synod or presiding bishop. I can think of many from other traditions who were at least as well suited for these offices. Yet, it is legitimate to ask if my Augustana background was helpful to me in serving in those offices.

There are two things that stand out. First, it is the insistence in Augustana's emphasis that one called to ministry must have a firm and unshakable sense that God has called and one must serve. Second, it is the accent in Augustana's actions through its history that the



Herbert W. Chilstrom and Donald W. Sjöberg

Gospel must be preached and lived out in the real world.

Oscar Benson played a huge role for me in both of those arenas. Not long after I decided to go to seminary I attended a session for young men who had similar intentions. As a guest that evening, Benson spoke only one sentence: "If you can stay out, stay out." I got his

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*The Augustana Heritage Association defines, promotes, and
perpetuates the heritage and legacy of
the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church.*

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point. It has sustained me for all of my ministry, but especially as a bishop. In the midst of a maelstrom of expressions of strong opinions and forthright convictions, one could not possibly survive in the office of bishop without the unshakable assurance that God has called. No, that does not give one license to rule with impunity or to ignore the sound advice of others. But it does give one a sense of grounding, a certainty that whatever my shortcomings may be, I have a call from God and God's people for this particular ministry.

It was at the 1958 Jamestown convention and my ordination at Chautauqua that Benson again underscored this theme. He was the preacher. His text was Jeremiah 1:5:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Benson said to us that:

The God who called Jeremiah is now calling you to serve Him. You are not only called by God; you are also called for God. Be on guard lest you minimize your gifts, and they be wasted instead of used. Be on your knees often, asking God to make your gifts instruments for him. God wants you to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

In that spirit, one of the first things I did after my election as the first presiding bishop of the ELCA was to write this prayer on a small slip of paper and place it on my desk.

Lord, help me to fear no one but you...

It remained there for all of my years in that office.

Augustana's accent on the role of the church in the world was also prominent at the 1958 convention. The "spirit of Augustana" can be measured in some of the actions taken by the delegates that year:

Pastors were reminded that they were expected to "mix in politics" as well as preach the Gospel. "It is the responsibility of the pastor to assess political and social trends in the light of the Word of God and share his insights in his preaching and teaching with the people of his congregation."

Congregations were reminded that to exclude any person on the basis of color, culture, class or caste is to "sin against God and man." (sic) This mandate also extended to removing discrimination in "housing, employment, education and access to social welfare services."

The assembly also condemned "appalling corruption in...trade unionism and...in some management practices."

New mission congregations were to be organized "without regard to class or color."

The convention put itself firmly on record as favoring Lutheran unity.

Little did I know at that moment that I would play a significant role in that unfolding venture.

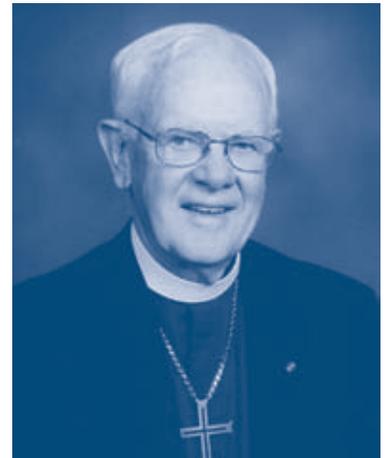
Those two streams—the call to Gospel proclamation and commitment to social change—carried me through my ministry as a pastor and bishop. Through thick and thin I never doubted that I had been called by God to

the task at hand. And with the coming and going of one issue after another, I never questioned my duty to lead the people of God in prophetic actions.

Herbert W. Chilstrom

After ordination I served a two-point parish at Pelican Rapids and Elizabeth, MN; taught and was academic dean at Luther College, Teaneck, NJ; was senior pastor at First Church, St. Peter, MN; served three terms as bishop of the MN Synod of the LCA; served two terms as the first presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Editorial Note: *The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago is establishing the "The Herbert W. Chilstrom Chair in New Testament Studies." The seminary hopes to raise 1.5 million for the chair. The effort is a small part of the seminary fund appeal "Equipping the Saints for Ministry" which aims to raise about 56 million. All former Augustana pastors have or will receive a letter of appeal from LSTC. All lay people as well who have a love for the seminary are invited to participate in the appeal for the "Herbert W. Chilstrom Chair in New Testament Studies."*



Herbert W. Chilstrom

Donald W. Sjoberg

An Oblate missionary from France came to the north of Canada and remarked, "God must love these people a great deal to have sent me so far to such a cold and lonely place." Fifty congregations and preaching points scattered across the Canadian prairies were the destinations of some 200 pastors and students who might have felt the same way. They had come from the United States to minister and share the love of God. Pastor J. Arvid Vikman came from Lynn, Mass. to Winnipeg in 1930 and served in Canada until his death in 1953. Pastor Vikman drove 164 miles to baptize me in July 11, 1931 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Scandinavia, Manitoba. My early remembrances were of those pastors and students coming to be at our church, all of whom were welcomed and appreciated. We were made to feel a part of the Church!

George A Nelson, newly ordained in 1948, came from San Diego, California, to be our pastor. He opened my eyes to what might be possible, such as going to a church college. No one of our family had given that a thought. "Of course, it was possible," he told our parents and three of us cousins went, which resulted in Vernon Sundmark and I becoming pastors. On April 11, 1954, I was ordained in my home congregation by Dr. Oscar

Benson accompanied by Dr. Eric Wahlstrom from the Rock Island Seminary. All the participants in the service were shown on the cover of *The Lutheran Companion*, on the June 2, 1954 issue. I was to know that I was a pastor of the Church!

My first call was to Augustana, Edmonton, Alberta, succeeding the pastor who had baptized me, Pastor Vikman. That congregation graciously welcomed Trudy and me and we had six wonderful years there. The ministry modeled by dedicated pastors and lay people is what I have treasured as I moved from a parish pastor to Director of Canadian Missions and to the office of bishop. In the early years we were often together with other pastors and their families, or met at camps, Luther League and Conference convention. This can best be described as an esprit de corps, a true sense of purpose and fellowship. All my working life I continued to see congregations and pastors in that light.

Beginning with my year at Luther College in Regina, Saskatchewan, and then at the Lutheran College and Seminary in Saskatoon I was one Augustana Lutheran among those from other Lutheran Churches. I grew in my appreciation of the wider Lutheran family and some of those early friendships have continued through the years. All of which made the two mergers easier for me. I am grateful that the leadership in the Augustana Lutheran Church was willing to cooperate with other Lutherans in theological education in Canada as shown through Dr. Anton Nelson, Dr. Gilbert Monson, Dr. Otto Olson, and Dr. Harold Floreen who were on the faculty as well as encouraging young people to enter the ordained ministry. In addition to his duties as professor and president of the Canada Conference, Otto Olson, championed the movement towards Lutheran Unity and an indigenous Lutheran Church in Canada. He did that in the ecumenical spirit of Augustana. That spirit flowed through Otto even after his death April 26, 1976. I knew I was building on the labors of others!

In summary, Augustana gave me the sense of the whole Church through worship and the ministerium, openness to other churches especially in common efforts toward unity and service to human need and a wide sense of hospitality. The pioneer spirit prevailed in spite of difficulties, as George Nelson would say, "it can be done, with God's help." For what had to be done, the charisma was given. The heritage of Augustana lives on!

Donald W. Sjoberg combined seminary studies while going to the University of Saskatchewan, graduating with a BA in 1951 and a BD in 1953. He and Trudy Woldrich were married in 1953 and, after an extended honeymoon in Europe, moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where Don became pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church. Six years later he was appointed Regional Director for American Missions for the area Thunder Bay, Ontario and west, which in a similar position he continued on in the LCA until 1970 when he was elected president

of the Western Canada Synod. At the constituting convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in 1985, Don was elected the bishop of that church and he served two terms until his retirement in 1994.

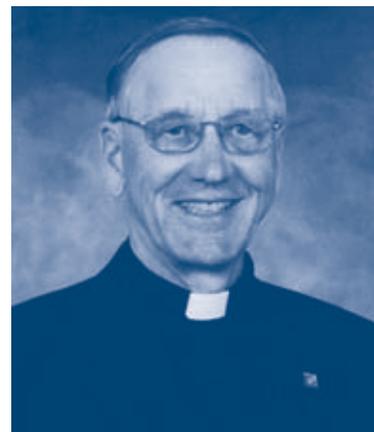
Since "retirement" the Sjobergs continued to live in Winnipeg, Manitoba and are active in church and community. Don has served several times as interim pastor and is working with a writer on a book of Swedes in Canada. They have four married children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren, all of whom live in Alberta.

Editorial note:

Lutheran Theological Seminary Announces Honorary Degrees

The Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, is honored to announce that the Rev. Dr. Donald Sjoberg and Ms. Joan Meyer have consented to accept honorary degrees to be conferred upon them at the Spring Convocation on May 5, 2006.

Both Dr. Sjoberg and Ms. Meyer have been influential leaders in the history of our young church and continue to provide wise counsel and sacrificial service. It seemed especially appropriate to the seminary to honor these two exemplary Christian servants at a time when the ELCIC will celebrate its 20th anniversary. Don Sjoberg was elected as the first national bishop of the newly constituted Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and Joan Meyer was elected the church's first vice president at the constituting convention in Winnipeg in 1986. The seminary community joyfully anticipates the day when we will publicly confer the degree Doctor of Divinity honoris causa on Rev. Donald Sjoberg and the degree Doctor of Christian Letters honoris causa on Ms. Joan Meyer (which occurred on May 5, 2006)



Donald W. Sjoberg

Synod Bishops of Augustana Heritage

In addition, Herbert Chilstrom and Donald Sjoberg as presiding bishops, there are a number of pastors who have served as Synod bishops in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. They include the following; we give thanks for their leadership in the ELCA:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Harold Lohr | Harold Wimmer |
| Dennis Anderson | Ronald Hasley |
| Roger Munson | Harold Skillrud |
| Roger Anderson | Dale Skogland |
| Paul Swanson | Roy Almquist |

Children of Augustana and Tanzania, Africa

The History of Augustana's Mission in Tanzania and Life in Tanzania Today

By Marie Benson

“Children of Augustana” is the theme for the 2008 AHA Gathering at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas. Many children of Augustana were called to, labored, were born on the first “independent Augustana field in Africa” which began in the 1920’s on the central plateau of Tanganyika. This is the story of some of the happenings of this nearly century long work in Tanzania, one diverging family, and some points of contact with the Church today, the ELCT.

Herb Chilstrom in his keynote speech at the first Augustana Heritage Gathering in Chautauqua, New York, in September, 1998, defined what he considered to be the Augustana Spirit with four prominent elements: Personal piety, Dignified worship, Social consciousness and Global awareness. (Augustana Heritage Newsletter, January 1999, vol. 4, no. 2) It is the Global awareness element that I hope to explain in this story of the Augustana Lutheran Church outreach to Africa beginning in the 1920’s and how elements of our family have played a part in the development of the church in Tanganyika/Tanzania.

A missionary committee was established a year after Augustana’s founding in 1860 but it took nearly two decades until the church sent out its first missionaries. The immigrants had carried their interest in world missions from Sweden. At first they were the recipients of the missionaries coming from the homeland to help in establishing the church on the frontier. There were attempts within the United States to reach out to the recently liberated Negroes and to American Indians with little success. The Synod authorized work among the Swedes in Utah in 1882 and that continued for 20 years until it became part of the Synod’s home missions program.

Augustana’s first bona fide foreign mission effort began in 1878 in India with Rev. and Mrs. August B. Carlson as missionaries. With the advent of the twentieth century the first missionary to China, Pastor A. W. Edwins, was sent by Augustana.



Stan and Marie Benson 2007

The colleges of Augustana developed an avid interest in and concern for Africa. The Synod responded to these youthful stirrings and called a 1917 seminary graduate, Ralph D. Hult, to find a suitable territory as an independent Augustana field. This took him to Sudan, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad without success from 1919 to 1922 when on March 26, 1922 he received a cable saying, “Go to Tanganyika”.

At first the missionaries related to the northern area around Mt. Kilimanjaro where the orphaned German missions were in need because of the internment of the German missionaries during World War I. These missionaries were allowed to return in 1924 and within a year the first American Augustana missionaries began to arrive in Singida among the Ilamba and Turu tribes.

The first pastors to serve in addition to Ralph Hult were Herbert S. Magney, N. Ludwig Melander, A. C. Zeilinger, and George N. Anderson. Women medics were the first to arrive in the Singida field: Selma Swanson, Bertha Anderson, and Elveda Bonander.

With the last name our family took root in Tanganyika even though Elveda Bonander was not yet related to us. She grew up in an Augustana parsonage in Kansas, took her nurse’s training at Moline Lutheran Hospital, and went to Tanganyika as a missionary nurse in 1924 to work in this new field of missions. The predominant Swedish blood line of the missionaries added Russian blood when Elveda married the Leipzig Society missionary, Dr. Richard Reusch in 1928.

Despite primitive transportation there was movement between the northern area field and the Singida area field. The Reusch family resided on Mt. Kilimanjaro at the Marangu and nearby Ashira stations. Dr. Reusch took as his personal mission in life bringing the Gospel to the Maasai tribe. His avocation was climbing the nearby giant, Mt. Kilimanjaro. In 1938 Richard Reusch was received into the ministerium of the Augustana Lutheran Church and from then on was sponsored by their mission. With this change in status he was not interned

during World War II so he could continue to work in the orphaned (again) missions of northern Tanganyika. (*May, 1997, volume 2, number 2 issue of Augustana Heritage Newsletter, "The Beginning of Foreign Missions in the Augustana Lutheran Church" by Donald E. Trued".)

During World War II in the United States the young wife of Rev. John S. Benson, Doris Oline Benson, died in Rosholt, South Dakota, leaving Pastor Benson with two teenaged sons: Stanley and Sterling (Bud). The Rosholt congregation were encouraged for world missions through having V. Eugene Johnson as their pastor and later Pastor Benson. So it was that four missionaries to Tanganyika grew up in St. Joseph's Lutheran Church outside Rosholt, SD: three siblings: Les and Dean Peterson and their sister Evelyn Peterson Palm, and Elder Jackson. To make it five the firstborn of Pastor John S. Benson, J. Stanley Benson also became a missionary.

When the war was over Pastor John S. Benson married a professional church worker, Ruth Bonander, in 1946. She was the sister of Elveda Bonander Reusch. Also a nurse, Ruth changed careers after further study in Christian education so that she became the leader of the Sunday Schools in the Augustana Lutheran Church. She was writing about missions already in the 1940's. Later after her marriage she became the national president of the Women's Missionary Society of Augustana. The Bonander family was always enthusiastic about missions that had originally called Elveda to



Elerai Lutheran Church being built

Africa. The circles of influence kept enlarging. When on furlough Richard Reusch taught at Gustavus Adolphus College. He imbued his Eppies fraternity to send help for his beloved Maasai. He spoke to students and parishioners alike about his passion. Among the listeners were people like Stan Benson who had become his step nephew when John and Ruth Benson married.

There were others who heard him. Stan's cousin Eunice Nordby married Dave Simonson in 1952. Although not Augustana members they were soon influenced by Reusch and headed for Tanganyika in 1956 after Dave's ordination.

When Stan Benson graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1951, he and his classmate friend, Clarence Budke, were challenged by another professor who was deeply influenced by the mission in Tanganyika, Dr. George Hall. "You have given time to Uncle Sam before you came to college, now it is time for you to give time to the Lord." As soon as Stan and Clarence graduated from college they went overseas. Their first assignment was changed from Tanganyika to British North Borneo. There they were teachers in

secondary schools of the Chinese Self Established Church for two years until that crisis situation was relieved by others arriving from the Augustana Mission. They could then proceed directly to Tanganyika to take up other educational work—Stan accompanying the legendary Dr. Reusch into Maasailand as he prepared to leave for retirement and Clarence teaching and in administra-



Mara Congregation new building where Stan served

tive work with the first Lutheran Secondary School in Tanganyika at Ilboru outside of Arusha.

By the time their four and a half year first term was complete both Stan and Clarence had decided that they could continue to serve the Lord better by being ordained. Clarence had been temporarily released from his Lutheran Church Missouri Synod while overseas so he returned to that church and studied for the ministry. He had married Ruth Larson in 1952 and when he was ordained they returned to missions, this time to serve in the church in Papua New Guinea through their sending LCMS church. Stan also married before entering Augustana Seminary in 1956—to the writer of this small saga.(Marie Schafer)

Stan was ordained in 1959 and that summer the Bensons traveled by freighter from New York harbor around the Cape of Good Hope to Mombasa with their son John Steven Benson having his first birthday in Capetown, South Africa. Maasailand was always their calling as they proceeded to spend the next 33 years until retirement with the church in Tanzania. Their first term was spent at Loliondo which is across the Serengeti Plains almost to Kenya in northern Tanzania. This station also gave support to the mission among the Sonjo tribe which was a mission not from overseas but from the northern synod of the evolving Federation of Lutheran Churches in Tanzania.

After their first furlough Stan and Marie became residents of Arusha, the central city of all their years of work in Tanzania. Todd was born while they lived in Loliondo (1960). Jeff was born (1965) during their second term

when they lived at Oldonyo Sambu Christian Leadership Training Centre, 24 miles to the north of Arusha on the Nairobi road. By the time Jeff came on the scene his older brothers were already bound for boarding school which was Augustana School for Missionaries Children at Kiomboi, in the Singida area of the church. The missionary children were Children of Augustana!

The Bensons spent two terms at Oldonyo Sambu when Stan served many surrounding preaching points and small churches in Maasailand from the Kenya border through Arusha to Maasai headquarters at Monduli. One of the projects at Oldonyo Sambu beside the many conferences the centre hosted was a Junior Seminary held for two years there to upgrade the education of Maasai and other tribal youth so that they could enter the seminary of the Lutheran Church at Makumira. Just as Mt. Kilimanjaro dominated the activity of the churches, hospitals and schools around Moshi, Mt. Meru at a lesser height and 50 miles to the west of Kilimanjaro was the focal point for the work around Arusha.

Educational missionary Ray Hagberg was the teacher for the Junior Seminary and received assistance from both Bensons. The students who finished the two year course all went on to Makumira and became pastors. Thomas Laiser from that Junior Seminary class continues as the bishop of the Diocese in the Arusha Region of the church, having been consecrated for his third ten year term as bishop January 7, 2007.

To encourage more local evangelists to become pastors Theological Education by Extension (TEE) began in the newly formed Synod in the Arusha Region. This

was a new synod formed to serve the pastoral Maasai and agricultural Mwarush peoples in the early 1970's. Stan had spent a term studying at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, where he was introduced to TEE concepts. He encouraged the new synod to begin these studies and Pastors Dean Peterson and



At Makumira Seminary: Dave Simanson, Dean Peterson, Stan Benson



Guesthouse at Karatu Lutheran Hospital

Gabriel Kimirei prepared these three year courses. The teachers traveled to meet with groups of students near their homes each month. The entire group came to the Oldonyo Sambu Centre for two months each year for more concentrated study. Soon the Catholic Diocese joined the program sending their catechists for further training and sending a priest to assist with the teaching. By working and living near their homes these church leaders were not divorced from their communities through their years at a formal seminary.

Stan became the second leader, the vice president, of the synod from 1974-1978, which established the Bensons as Arusha residents. All ordained missionaries had dual assignments. They always served a congregation but also had other assignments. During the remaining years of Stan's service to the diocese he served several parishes as well as was in charge of building and development work in the synod.

Along the way the synod became one of the dioceses of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT).

The synod became the Diocese in the Arusha Region. At last count there are 20 dioceses in ELCT. They are alive and growing with more than two million Lutherans in Tanzania currently.

The first missionary work in Tanzania began in 1893 on the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro. At the centenary of that beginning in 1993 five dioceses celebrated together and included those who originally were served by Augustana missionaries along with other European colleagues. They are the culmination of the work of the Children of Augustana as missionaries in northern and central Tanzania, catalysts/expeditors for the Lord, bringing the Gospel to Tanganyika/Tanzania. These five dioceses are found in the original Kilimanjaro Diocese, from which three dioceses developed—the Pare' diocese in the Pare' Mountains, and on both sides of Mt. Meru—Meru Diocese

and Arusha Diocese and the Central Diocese encompassing the original independent Augustana field, the Ilyamba/Turu field in the central plateau of Tanzania. At that celebration the leaders of the church chose Psalms 16:6 as a motto and had it put on their local vitenge cloth: "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places. I have a goodly heritage."

These missionaries sent by Augustana Lutheran Church had many children who grew up on the field. Many pages could be written about the awesome mis-

sionary kids and what they have done and are doing to bring peace to the suffering world, but I shall just tell about one you know from AHA gatherings, our son John Steven Benson. His presentation at the 2004 AHA Gathering at Gustavus was "Augustana's Tanganyikan Mission Field: Its Impact Through the Generations." He has been interviewing the parents and children of 15 families who served as Augustana missionaries in Tanzania in regard to their

The first missionary work in Tanzania began in 1893 on the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

feelings about place and religion in their lives. John is currently researching the books, periodicals, and other historical documents about Augustana's contribution to the church in Tanzania, the ELCT. He has given many papers at his professional meetings about these studies and expects to bring it all together into a book yet to be published.

John is studying the period in Tanzania when there were many missionaries. Many continued to serve after Augustana became part of the Lutheran Church in America. Today there are very few missionaries in Tanzania with Augustana roots. The 2007 Global Mission Annual notes that Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg with roots in the Friberg and Lindell families from the original Augustana missionaries almost stand alone except for Jean Wahlstrom who is chaplain of the Maasai Lutheran Girls Secondary School. Interestingly these two families are both serving the Maasai as Steve is the doctor assisting in the operation of 14 dispensaries which serve the Maasai people in an area the size of the state of Iowa.

Meanwhile there have been fifteen years of retirement for us from working in Tanzania. They have been full years of enjoying pastoral living in St. Peter, Minnesota, which included coordination work with the AHA gathering at Gustavus Adolphus College in 2004. We have had five trips back to visit the church and friends in our adopted homeland of Tanzania. Most recently we spent mid-December 2006 to mid-January 2007 in Tanzania.

From the day Pastor Ralph Hult first entered Tanganyika to find an "independent" mission area for the Augustana Lutheran Church in 1922 many Children of Augustana have worked among the tribes of central and northern Tanzania to what is now a large blended diverse Lutheran Church. Change accelerates each year. When we met Don and Marlene Claycomb, who were on their first return trip since leaving 32 years ago from serving at Irete in the Usambara Mountains, Marlene said, "It is going to take me awhile to assimilate all that we are witnessing here." We could say Amen to that as we witnessed the changes everywhere on this trip. The church is growing on every side with the lay people being the true witnesses to the Gospel. Everyone is kind and friendly. Stan reveled in sharing tea time, visiting in the parishes he had served, noting how the lay people are enlarging their churches by building far larger edifices while continuing to use the encircled older churches



Steve and Bethany (Lindell) Friberg, both original families in China

for worship as they build. As we walked down the streets of Arusha we were often plucked out of the passing parade of walkers for big hugs from friends.

We supposedly worked ourselves out of a job as missionaries by the time we retired but there are more expatriates in Tanzania now than when we were there. Everyone seems to have a non-government organization (NGO) to allay the problems. Julius Nyerere, the first leader of Tanganyika, pinpointed eradication of poverty, ignorance and disease as goals for the country when freedom came in 1961. With the advent of HIV/AIDS the emphasis is geared to the disease part of the goal. Millions of dollars are being poured into Tanzania to build new hospitals in many places. Fourteen Lutheran hospitals are trying to deal with the scourge of AIDS and other diseases through palliative care, a program of the ELCT which ELCA missionary Dr. Kristopher Hartwig assisted by Berit Hofgren from Sweden are leading.

From those first female medics sent to Singida in the 1920's, the ELCT is blessed today in having three doctors serving from USA: Dr. Mark Jacobson, Dr. Kristopher Hartwig, and Dr. Steve Friberg. However, most of their funds do not come from Global Missions of the ELCA; they are generated by funds raised by Global Health Ministries. They all work in the geographic area of Arusha Diocese, although Dr. Hartwig's palliative care work covers the entire ELCT.

Other changes which are apparent from the primitive Tanzania we came to in the 1950's now are using internet cafes, cell phones, and ATM machines. Cars are available to many more of the people, some main roads are improved and the population continues to pile into the cities. The town of Arusha, of perhaps 40,000 people



Claycombs and Bensons in Arusha, Dec. 24, 2006

Editorial note: The summer 2007 issue of THE EPISTLE at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago has the announcement of the death of Harold V. Faust, 1922-2006, who was a missionary in Tanzania for 26 years, beginning in 1949. In 1998 he published a book about his experiences as a missionary with the Barabaig tribe. He is survived by his wife Louise and three sons and two daughters.

when the Bensons arrived, is estimated to be nearing a million inhabitants.

Meanwhile on the central plateau around Singida where the first missionaries arrived not yet a century ago to form the “original Augustana mission”, there is Central Diocese as one of the twenty dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The ELCT is an independent church with world status in the Lutheran World Federation. Nyerere’s original goal to combat poverty, ignorance and disease continues in different avenues. The Tanzanian government controls the education system but cannot carry out their goals for universal primary education nor increased access to higher education. The NGO’s bring in many forms of help to combat disease by building and renovating hospitals, offering palliative care, and giving widespread medical care to the people. The world thinks of poverty as destitution but not so in Tanzania. The poor in Tanzania live without excess but not without dignity. They deserve our respect and compassion.



Mrema Impala Hotel, Arusha

AHA Gathering VI at Lindsborg

The local committee is excited about the variety of worship, fellowship, and entertainment experiences planned for Gathering VI, scheduled to coincide with the Midsummer's Day Festival in Lindsborg that offers a taste of Swedish heritage. "Save-the-Date" cards have been sent to remind everyone of the upcoming event. The materials for registration, on-campus and off campus housing, and local area attractions are included in this newsletter and can also be found on the Augustana Heritage web site (augustanaheritage.org). Blocks of rooms for off-campus housing are being held for AHA from July 1, 2007 through April 15, 2008. To secure the block room rate, identify oneself as an AHA (Augustana Heritage Association) participant. Negotiating other rates at any area hotel is an option. A more detailed program will be published in The Augustana Heritage Newsletter in the spring of 2008. To ask questions of the local planning committee, send an e-mail to AHAgathering@aol.com or write AHA at Bethany Lutheran Church, 320 North Main, Lindsborg, KS 67456. Additional information will be posted on the AHA web site as plans are developed. Register early to receive monthly e-mail updates on Gathering VI that will be sent after January 2008.

A Sampling of Off-campus Lodging for AHA

Lindsborg

Coronado Motel & RV Park	305 Harrison	785-227-3943	800-747-2793
Movies 'N More RV Park	236 Cole	785-227-2729	
Rosberg House B&B [5]	103 E. State	785-227-4189	888-215-5234
Seasons of the Fox B&B [4]	505 N. Second	785-227-2549	800-756-3596
Swedish Country Inn [18]	112 W. Lincoln	785-227-2985	800-231-0266
Viking Motel	446 Harrison	785-227-3336	800-326-8390

For more information, go to www.lindsborg.org or call the Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce at 785-227-3706 or toll free 888-227-2227.

McPherson

Best Western	2211 E. Kansas	620-241-5343	888-841-0038
Days Inn	2300 E. Kansas	620-241-3690	800-DAYSINN
Holiday Inn Express [40]	2302 E. Kansas	620-241-5566	
Red Coach Inn	2111 E. Kansas	620-241-6960	800-362-0072
Best Value Inn	2110 E. Kansas	620-241-8881	

For more information, go to www.mcphersonks.org or call the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau at 620-241-3340 or toll free 800-324-8022. These McPherson hotels are directly off I-135 and old Hwy. 81 and within a 15–20 minute drive of Lindsborg.

Salina

Baymont Inn and Suites	745 W. Schilling Rd.	785-493-9800
Candlewood Suites	2650 Planet Ave.	785-823-6939
Comfort Inn	1820 W. Crawford	785-826-1711
Courtyard by Marriott [50]	3020 Riffel Drive	785-309-1300
Country Inn & Suites [20]	2760 S. Ninth	785-827-1271
Fairfield Inn	1740 W. Crawford	785-823-6900
Hampton Inn [50]	401 W. Schilling Rd.	785-823-9800
Holiday Inn	1616 W. Crawford	785-823-1739

For more information, go to www.salinakansas.org or call the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce at 785-827-9301 or toll free 877-SalinaKS (877-725-4625). These Salina hotels are directly off I-135 and Hwy. 81 and within a 15–20 minute drive of Lindsborg.

The brackets with a number indicate those hotels where blocks of rooms are reserved for the Augustana Heritage Association. Reservations may be made after July 1, 2007 or until April 15, 2008. Identify your reservation as being an Augustana Heritage Association participant since group rates have been negotiated. However, negotiating your own rates at any area hotel is certainly an option.

Airports

Wichita	85 miles
Kansas City	200 miles
Salina	20 miles

(all approximate distances)

A Sampling of Area Attractions

Lindsborg

Lindsborg has historic Bethany Lutheran Church, Coronado Heights (two miles north), Old Mill Museum and Heritage Park where the Swedish Pavilion is located. Bethany College is one of the “must sees” for all Augustana Lutherans. The charming downtown with its brick streets has many shops featuring Swedish imports. Area artists’ galleries or studios are located throughout the village. A walking/car tour has been mapped out. Swenson Park is the site of many Midsummer’s activities. For more information, go to www.lindsborg.org or call the Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce at 785-227-3706 or toll free 888-227-2227.

McPherson

McPherson offers many things to see and do. Some of the most popular attractions are the McPherson Museum, 1894 McPherson County Courthouse, Statue of General McPherson (located adjacent to the courthouse), McPherson Opera House (1888-under restoration/preservation with the west half of the building newly completed and open), and Maxwell Wildlife Refuge (northeast about 10 miles). A walking/car tour guide is available for those interested. The Buttonhole has one of the largest selections of quilting fabrics in the state. Another interesting downtown shop is Cook’s Nook, a kitchen/gourmet shop extraordinaire. For more information, go to www.mcphersonks.org or call the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau at 620-241-3340 or toll free 800-324-8022.

Salina

Salina has a historic downtown where the Art Center Cinema, Salina Art Center, Salina Community Theatre, Smoky Hill Museum, and Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts are located. Nearby are the Smoky Hill Bison Company (10 miles south) and Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure (8 miles west), an exceptional outdoor experience. About ten miles north of town is the Smoky Hill Vineyards and Winery. Oakdale Park, east of downtown, was where part of the movie Picnic was filmed. For more information, go to www.salinakansas.org or call the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce at 785-827-9301 or toll free 877-SalinaKS (877-725-4625).

Brochures of area attractions will be available, on a first-come, first-served basis, at registration. Each of the area chambers of commerce may be contacted for additional resources. Local committee members will assist in providing helpful information so your visit can be particularly enjoyable.



Augustana Heritage Association

Gathering VI Lindsborg, Kansas

Thursday - Sunday June 19 - 22, 2008

REGISTRATION for *GATHERING VI*

Please print.

Participant #1

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Dietary/medical/special needs: _____

Participant #2

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Dietary/medical/special needs: _____

Attach a separate sheet for additional participants

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (see description on next page)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postmarked by May 15, 2008 | \$175 x _____ participants = | Total: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postmarked after May 15, 2008 | \$195 x _____ participants = | Total: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events only registration (snacks/no meals) | \$ 95 x _____ participants = | Total: _____ |

HOUSING

- I/We will be staying **off-campus** and will make my/our own reservations.
 - Location and city _____
- Please arrange **on-campus** housing at Bethany College for me/us.
 I/We will need on-campus housing on [please check all the apply]
 Thursday Friday Saturday
 - Single (one participant in room, not shared) \$35/night/room Total: _____
 - Double (two participants in room) \$40/night/room Total: _____
 - Reserving entire suite (one or two participants) \$70/night/suite Total: _____

Roommate or suitemate preference(s): _____

Mail completed registrations to:

Augustana Heritage Association
 Bethany Lutheran Church
 320 N. Main
 Lindsborg, KS 67456

Payment to *Augustana Heritage Association* must accompany registration.

Total payment enclosed by check: _____

Payment charged to Visa, Mastercard, Discover

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security code (last three digits on back of card) _____

Signature: _____

Registration:

The registration fee includes all full-group and small-group sessions, program costs, Thursday evening meal, noon and evening meals on Friday and Saturday, Sunday noon meal, and all coffee/snack breaks. Events only registration includes all of the aforementioned except meals. No refunds will be given for meals not attended. No partial registration is available. Cancellations will be honored up to June 10, 2008 and all but \$25 will be refunded.

Off-campus Housing: See attached list. All reservations will be made by individual participants. Remember to mention Augustana Heritage Association when making reservations. Breakfast meals will be “on your own” for off-campus housing.

Lodging at Bethany College:

Lodging at Bethany College will be provided in the campus residence halls. Housing for the Gathering will be provided in suite-style residence halls; two rooms share one bathroom. Each room has two single beds. A pillow, blanket, bed linens, bath towel and washcloth will be provided. An entire suite may be reserved by a single registration (one participant or two participants) who do not want to share a bathroom but the cost will be \$70 per night for the whole suite.

Adequate on-campus housing is anticipated. Campus housing will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Bethany College will **not** provide alarm clocks, hair dryers, televisions, fans, radios, irons or ironing boards.

For those who stay on campus, a continental breakfast will be provided. For on-campus housing questions, please contact the Bethany College Office of Summer Programs at 785.227.3380, ext. 8158. Check-in for campus housing will be Thursday, June 19, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Check-out will be 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the morning following your reservation date(s). If other arrangements need to be made for check-in or check-out, please call the number above. Location for checking-in and out will be at Messiah Lutheran Church.

Your Reunion Groups:

College: _____ Year: _____

College: _____ Year: _____

Seminary: _____ Year: _____

Seminary Chorus: _____ Year: _____

Church: _____ Location: _____

Caravaners: _____ Year: _____

Choir: soprano alto tenor bass

Other: _____

Would you be willing to help organize or host your reunion group? _____

Specify which interest group _____

As reunion groups are identified and formed, you will be notified as time permits. Reunion group events will be posted at registration.

Please provide additional names and addresses of those who may be interested in attending.

Summary of AHA Board Meeting

April 24-26, 2007

The AHA met at Bethany Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, KS. Fifteen members attended. The meeting was called to order by President Paul Cornell. It was announced that Archbishop Anders Wejryd of Sweden has accepted the invitation to participate in the June 10-13, 2010, Gathering at Augustana College.

President Cornell announced a new committee on Long Range Planning to consider future programming implications. Members appointed: Ann Kohler, Chair; Hal Nilsson, Marilyn Jackson, and Loran Bohman.

The Executive Director, Herb Gifford, gave his report indicating the wide scope of service by volunteers. Judy Gifford has put together a list of living members of the ordained Augustana ministerium, a list of 499. They have received a letter encouraging participation in AHA.

On October 3, 2007, there will be a meeting of the Augustana Alliance including the Augustana Heritage Association, the Augustana Historical Society, Augustana College, Jenny Lind Chapel, the Swenson Center and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Scoop Okerlund reported on the evaluations of Chautauqua Gathering, which were very positive.

Hartland Gifford gave an update on the History Book. Publication planned by May 1, 2008. Free books will go to all donors of \$1,000 or more. Akta Augustana is the title of the cookbook which Curtis Olson and Luther Lindberg are producing. It will have 200 pages and will be available at Lindsborg in 2008.

Arvid and Nancy Anderson are retiring as editors of the AHA Newsletter. The Communications Committee are discussing replacements.

Jerry Leaf and Ruth Ann Deppe presented the treasurer's report. The corrected by-laws were distributed.

The Board will meet at Lindsborg on Thursday, June 19, 2008 at the Gathering.

The Communications committee reported on what should be the target audience of the Newsletter. The plan is to develop a computer list of former Augustana

congregations of about 800, which Ruth Ann Deppe already has by states. Board members were asked to take an Augustana Conference and make contacts with some congregations. These assignments were made. The goal is to get new members for AHA.

The Long Range Planning Committee led a discussion on future plans beyond Augustana in 2010, whether a single Gathering or Regional Meetings, and how regions could be determined. How to involve younger people was discussed.

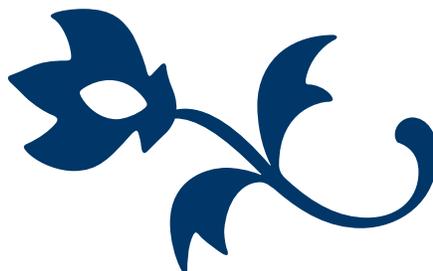
The Administration & Finance Committee - Reuben Swanson, Hartland Gifford, Jerry Leaf, and Ruth Ann Deppe. A motion was made that we pursue having an interest group designation with the ELCA for AHA insurance. A motion was also made that AHA contribute \$1,000 to Midland College to be used for funding a history of the college which includes Luther College. Other action included AHA establishing a bank account in its own name. The motion was made that at the closing of the current fiscal year of LSTC, June 30, 2007, all assets of AHA be transferred to Lindsborg State Bank, Lindsborg, KS.

The Projects & Publications Committee moved that the Virginia Follstad book be priced at \$40 plus \$5 for postage and handling and that five copies be given to the AHA archives. It was also approved for the publishing arrangements with Augsburg/Fortress for the History Book by Maria Erling and Mark Granquist.

Introduction of the Local Committee for the 2008 Gathering at Lindsborg included Judy Burch, Janet and Dick Monson, Co-Chairs and Vance Eckstrom. The committee shared the Gathering plans. Dr. Robert Fogel, interim president of Bethany College, was introduced. He commented on the close knit relationship of Augustana people!

The meeting was adjourned and Hal Nilsson had the closing devotions.

Ann Kohler was acting secretary for Elsa Orescan.



An Historical Link to Augustana Mission Orphanage in China

By William C. Lee, ED.D.

Early Boyhood Years

This is my ever-challenging, constant-struggling, and a true revealing story, which has not been made known to the public until this time in my life. Before I begin this narrative, let me pause to recall a wonderful verse from the Holy Bible, which reflects my early childhood life and changing motivations in the years ahead. The Bible verse is: "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up my childish ways" (I Cor. 13:11)

Some Unforgettable Events

When I was a newborn baby boy on March 13, 1919, I had not a silver spoon in my mouth. It just showed how rich a family I was to grow up with. My father was a Confucian with some formal education but he was still a farmer living in a little village named Shengli. My parents were peasants. My mother was not educated. My only elder sister had no formal education at all. My parents were not financially able to send me to school either at that time.

Furthermore, a much worse incident happened on an August night of 1927 when I was eight years old. Our home town was attacked by the Chinese bandits. I was taken as one of the captives. Our freedom could be negotiated in

terms of the captor's demands. My parents did not have the money to get me released to go home. The bandit leaders beat me and kicked me very badly. At last, they pushed me and knocked me on the ground of the mountain slope. I would never forget as long as I live.

One of the greatest regrets the Chinese society has is the fact of the untimely death of the fathers or mothers. Thus, the younger children would be left orphaned. In fact, that is what happened to me. When I was a teenager, my father was very sick and he passed away before his 60th birthday. About 18 months later, my mother also fell sick and died of starvation. My sister was only 17 ½ years and accepted an offer of marriage in order to survive. I prayed, "O God, where should I go as an orphan?"

The Augustana Mission Orphanage; All is Free

I had had a humble and poor home background for years, but soon, an unprecedented opportunity came my way. My uncle, Shuan-his Li soon met Elder Hwa-Fu Lian of Yuisen Lutheran Church and discussed the matter as to how to get me to join the Augustana Mission Orphanage. Things did work out.

The Augustana Mission Orphanage was very much like a boarding school, which consisted of a total of one hundred students. Some 75 were boys, and the rest were girls. Almost all classes were co-educational. I could not describe my joy and



William C. Lee

my pride of being a student. I was about 11 or 12 years old when I just started my first grade schooling. I had to study extra hard to finish my first six grade level schooling in order to advance to junior high school level.

An ancient Chinese sage named Liang Hung, who overhung his head of hair to a beam of his study room, kept an awl in his hand to pinch it on his leg in order to concentrate in full attention on his books and achieve success in his high aims and purposes. Knowing his story, I also attempted to do similar things to myself, but I got punished by my teacher because he said that I broke the "lights out" rules of the orphanage. Fortunately I did get promoted to Augustana Mission School, namely the T.N. Hasselquist Middle School in Hsuehchang, Honan.

Tribute of Gratitude and Appreciation

The Augustana Mission Orphanage trained me as a good shoemaker for a livelihood in the future with such a trade. I was properly instructed and guided to become a Christian member of the Augustana Lutheran Church through Holy Baptism and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Then both Missionary Minister David W. Vikner and Pastor Wu Djen Ming baptized me in 1937. I have been a faithful member since then.

When three financial sources became possible for me to attend the T.N. Hasselquist Middle School, I was very ready to go to the Middle School. I did appreciate the opportunity to attend this particular junior high school. Money came to me from my church, Elder Guo-Yian Lee, my uncle Shuang-His Lee, and from Mr. Guang-Yun Du.

I attended the Middle School for only two years because the Japanese attacks came in the Honan provincial area. The Hasselquist school had to move or close because of this war in China. Fortunately, National Northeastern High School was also moving out of Peiking to Kikungshan where the American School was located on that mountaintop.

The Northeastern was a public institution and was free for all students from the war zones. I transferred there where I graduated in 1940. One year later, I was admitted to study political science and law courses for four years, and was granted a LL B degree in 1945.

I became an administrative assistant to the Chancellor of Cheeloo University, Chengtu, Szechuan with Dr. Ernest Struthers, M.D. However, Rev. John L. Benson of the Augustana Synod Mission and Dr. Elmer Carlson, M.D., head of the Augustana Mission Hospital,

both of Hsuehchang, Honan, really needed me as the legal representative to render legal services to the Mission and all 18 Chinese Lutheran Churches to get back all those church facilities as soon as possible following the surrender of Japan.

Hence, I served in those legal services for two years, 1945-46. In a reward to me they allowed me to go abroad to the U.S.A. to study for my postgraduate academic degrees. I started my classes at Augustana College and Theological Seminary, beginning in February 1947. Both Dr. Conrad Bergendoff and Dr. Eric Wahlstrom were my academic advisors guiding me in post-academic studies.

It was at the T.N. Hasselquist Middle School, I had a chance to meet Dr. and Mrs. August Edwins who stopped over to visit the Middle School on their furlough to America from China in the 1930's. Later, it was our own personal honor to have Mrs. Edwins and her son, Dwight Edwins, to come from Seattle, Washington to Los

Angeles to attend the wedding for Miss Eunice H. Chao and myself (William C. Lee) on July 6, 1952 at Angelica Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA. All the arrangements for the wedding were made under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Carl W. Segerhammar, senior pastor. The women's organization paid all the wedding related expenses. We had two boys about two years apart, named Dwight Edward Lee and Delbert George Lee. They were baptized by Rev. Dr. Carl Segerhammar. Thanks be to God

for these wonderful boys of our Chinese family in the Angelica congregation here in Los Angeles.

“O God, where
should I go as
an orphan?”

Biographic Summary

Dr. Lee earned his M.A. at the U. of Iowa in 1948, and the Certificate at Augustana Seminary. In 1957 his ED.D. was granted at the University of California. He was a Professor of Education and Philosophy at Union Seminary, Hong Kong 1949-52; Teaching Fellow 1953-55; and he taught at Florida Normal College 1957-60. From 1960-65 he taught political science at Tuscola College; Bloomfield College 1965-67; and he was Associate Prof. of Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University from 1967 to 1984 where he became Senior Professor in Education with tenure.

Dr. Lee and Eunice Chao were married in 1952. They became naturalized citizens of the United States in 1964. They now live in New Jersey, which seems to them very much like their home background of Honan Province in China. He contemplates writing a book about his Chinese-American life because “the good Lord has been leading him throughout all these wonderful years.”

The Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church in Print

Virginia P. Follstad, Author
Whitewater, Wisconsin

In her presentation at the 2006 AHA Gathering at Chautauqua, the author said, "May I begin this presentation by sharing with readers a part of the Preface to the book, *The Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church in Print*. This presents an introduction to the total project."

Considering that the printed word is an influential and powerful part of the total ministry of the Church, the Augustana Heritage Association Board felt that a record of the periodicals issued by the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church was needed in order to facilitate research about the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church and its institutions, organizations, and leading personalities. Such a record should also serve as a union list indicating the holdings of these serial publications in Augustana institutions, archives and other libraries owning files. Thus this publication was born.

For more than a century, from 1855 through 1962, a legacy of the printed word has developed. Through the years many editors and writers planned and prepared their paragraphs. Parish pastors, scholars, and church leaders were joined by reporters and church members, all with gifts of written expression, to create church publications as messengers of the Church. Printers and publishers set words on paper. Many worked to promote and distribute all manner of publications from extensive magazines and newspapers to modest newsletters. Many persevered under challenging circumstances. Librarians and archivists have faithfully acquired and preserved the written word on paper and microfilm thereby preserving yesterday for tomorrow. All have persistently and successfully pursued their goal of informing, educating, and inspiring people of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church and others of the religious faith. Each has provided a thread that has woven the total fabric of what is the Augustana heritage of the printed word.

The Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church in Print is here offered with the prayer that it will assist those who seek to find information about the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church. May the vision held by the Augustana Heritage Association Board be realized.

Editorial note: Dr. Arland Hultgren has written the BOOK REVIEW of Virginia Follstad's book. It is the next article in this NEWSLETTER.

About the Author

Virginia P. Follstad, a retired librarian, began her professional career as research assistant to Dr. Reuben K. Youngdahl, senior pastor at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the largest Augustana Lutheran Church congregation.

After earning her Master of Arts in Library Science (MALS) degree at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, she was a reference librarian at the Walter Library, then the main library at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis.

Subsequent professional positions were reference librarian at the Fresno County Library in Fresno, California; reference librarian and cataloger at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois; and cataloger at the Andersen Library at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Most recently, she was Director of the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library in Whitewater, Wisconsin for the last twenty-two years of her career.

She holds a Certificate of Professional Development in Library Administration from the University of Wisconsin; a Bachelor of Arts in English (BA) degree from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas; and an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (AA) degree from Luther College in Wahoo, Nebraska.

Memberships include the Augustana Heritage Association, American Library Association, Public Library Association and Wisconsin Library Association. She is also an elected member of Beta Phi Mu, the national library science and information studies honor society.

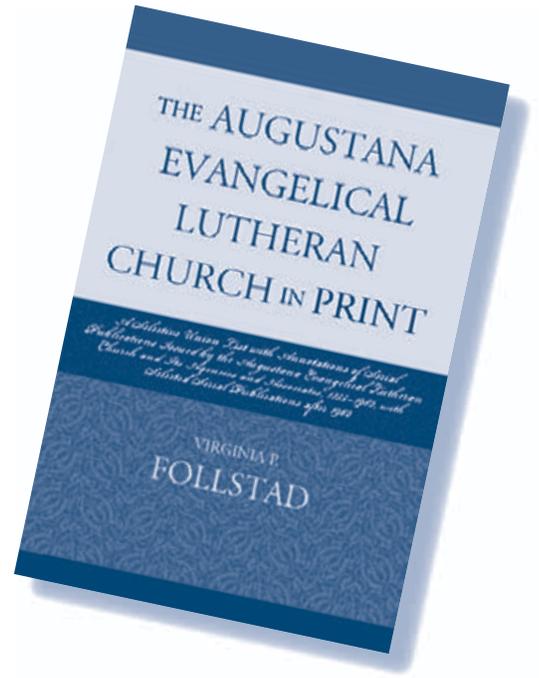
Local affiliations include the Swedish-American Historical Society of Wisconsin, American-Scandinavian Association of the Great Plains, Friends of Old World Wisconsin, Friends of the Whitewater Public Library, and Whitewater Arts Alliance.

A native of Oakland, Nebraska, she was baptized, confirmed and an active member with her parents and siblings at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church there which was the second largest Augustana Lutheran Church in the Nebraska Conference. Now a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, she has served there as an assisting minister, church council member, and Sunday school teacher. She has also been a member of the Lutheran Campus Ministry advisory board at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. The mother of two (Linda Ann Bryan and Dr. Brian D. Follstad) and grandmother of two (Tyler and Alex Bryan), she lives at rural Whitewater, Wisconsin with her husband, Dr. Merle N. Follstad. She may be contacted at W3546 Vannoy Drive, Whitewater, WI 53190 and vpfolldst@idcnet.com. She began research for this book immediately following retirement, when the Augustana Heritage Association commissioned her for this project.



The Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church in Print

By Virginia P. Follstad



A Book Review

By Arland J. Hultgren

Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Professor of New Testament
Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

The *Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church in Print*, by Virginia P. Follstad. ATLA Bibliography Series 53. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2007. Pp. 351 + xxv. \$40.00 (paper).

Many of us who grew up in the Augustana Lutheran Church were very much aware of the wider church beyond our own congregations. We knew that our congregations belonged together with others in districts, conferences, and the synod. We were aware of the colleges, the Women's Missionary Society, the youth ministry of the church, Luther League, and church camping programs. Hospitals and homes for the aged bore the name of "Augustana" or at least "Lutheran." We looked upon all of these things as somehow connected to our congregations, to ourselves, and therefore to our identity.

Much of that awareness was because *The Lutheran Companion* came into our homes. In 1958, according to the author of this volume, it had over 93,400 subscribers. That means that nearly 15% of the membership of the church (about 625,000) subscribed! By simple arithmetic that would mean that most households received the magazine.

What is less well known in the memory of Augustana people is that not only did the church and its organizations sponsor the various institutions mentioned above. They also did an amazing amount of publishing. It must come as a surprise to anyone who picks up this volume to find that there were over 330 publications (newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and other periodicals) published at one time and place or another. Many

of them still exist in libraries and archives in various parts of the U.S., Canada, and Sweden. The trick is to be able to find them.

Virginia Follstad has produced a book that directs anyone interested in finding Augustana publications to places where they can be found. She obviously knows very well how to do what she does. She retired recently from a long career as a librarian, including twenty-two years as Director of the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, Whitewater, Wisconsin. She has put skills to work that only a person with that kind of career and competence could possibly accomplish.

It sounds at first like an oxymoron to speak of a book like this as "breath-taking." But what Follstad has done is more than anyone might expect in a project like this. By my count, she has discovered Augustana publications, or information about them, in 125 libraries, archives, historical societies, and other institutions in North America and Sweden. There are six in Canada, and one each in England, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. These include some surprises, such as the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, Harvard University Library, the Royal Library in Stockholm, and many more. The predictable places are there too, such as the Swenson Center at Augustana College and the Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These two places show up more than any others for their holdings. As one can also expect, the libraries of Augustana-related colleges, the libraries of the seminaries of the ELCA and regional archives of the ELCA are also places where materials can be found—sometimes to a greater degree than one would imagine.

What Follstad does in this volume is to list the names of the various periodicals and then provide as much information as she can. Here we see an expert at

work. She combines the skills of an experienced librarian with obvious dedication. One gets the impression that this daughter of the Augustana heritage and graduate of Bethany College has done a labor of love. This is not the work of a disinterested person doing a librarian's chore. The excellence of her work has been recognized by the sheer fact of its being accepted for publication in the American Theological Library Association Bibliography Series.

The information provided for the various entries differs from case to case, depending on what can be known and in some measure the significance of the work. Generally that means that after the title is given, Follstad provides such things as its place of publication, its publisher, dates of publication, and where it can be found. In some cases an essay is included about its history, development, editors, readership, and other details.

There is a lot to learn from these entries. Details about *The Lutheran Companion*, for example, cover four pages. The convoluted histories of publications with *Hemlandet* ("Homeland") in the title—there were five of them—are narrated. Here too one will find the story of the publication known as *Korsbaneret* ("The Banner of the Cross"), its English-language companion, *My Church*, and their successor, the *Augustana Annual*. A complete listing of the reports and minutes of the synod and its conferences—and where they can be found—is provided. The same is true of the publications of the Augustana Historical Society.

Some funny and sad things are found along the way. On a lighter note, the venerable Augustana Book Concern published *A Drop of Ink*, but it lasted only a year (1952). On the other hand, *The Picayune* (1909-22) rose and fell with the fortunes of Minnesota College in Minneapolis (founded in 1904; closed in 1931).

The book is extremely generous in its coverage, and the author depended on the generosity of many who provided her information. She lists the names of dozens of persons with whom she corresponded. Somehow she was able to get results from a lot of people who are busy with archival and library tasks. Needless to say, that took a good deal of diplomacy and persistence.

As time passes, the distinctions among, and the distinctiveness of, the various Lutheran traditions that have flowed into the ELCA will become increasingly blurred. We who grew up in the Augustana Lutheran Church should not be willing to have our tradition interpreted

by persons who think that all Scandinavian church traditions rooted in the nineteenth century immigration were alike. The same concern should be shared by persons who grew up in the others. Each had its own distinctive character. Those who seek to interpret the various traditions need to have access to primary sources concerning each. How to find those sources can be a daunting task.

But it is so much easier in the case of the Augustana Lutheran Church and for that we and generations to come owe a deep debt of gratitude to Virginia Follstad.

Copies of the book can be obtained through the AHA Office: Augustana Heritage Association, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 1100 E. 55th Street, Chicago, IL 60615. The price of the book is \$40.00, and an additional \$5.00 is needed for postage and handling.

Arland J. Hultgren

*Asher O. and Carrie Nasby
Professor of New Testament
Luther Seminary
St. Paul, Minnesota*

We who grew up in the
Augustana Lutheran Church
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persons who think that all
Scandinavian church traditions
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century immigration were alike.

Author's Addendum

The count of libraries that have already added the book to their collections is 132, that I am aware of. This includes academic, theological, research and public libraries. While the majority of these are in the United States, there are 6 in Canada and 1 each in England, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. Most likely several libraries in Sweden will also add it to their collections.

A wide spectrum of library affiliations is represented in these numbers also. In addition to several Lutheran institutions, there are a good number of public and private institutions. Religious affiliations include Adventist, Anglican/Episcopal, Baptist, Brethren, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Church of the Nazarene, Churches of Christ, Evangelical Covenant Church, Evangelical Free Church, Methodist, Presbyterian, Reformed, Roman Catholic, United Church of Christ, The Wesleyan Church, Inter- and Multi-denominational, and Nondenominational, as well as several public and government libraries.

This wide and broad interest in the book is a real testament to the effort of the Augustana Heritage Association to share the information it contains. May God bless its use.

Virginia Follstad

First Lutheran Church, St. Peter, Minnesota

The first congregation to be organized in what is now the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is celebrating the year between their 149th birthday and their 150th with events each month. The program has included scheduling former pastors at First Lutheran returning to lead the services and the First Forums. The first event was Bishop Jon Anderson of the synod opening the celebration November 24, 2006. Along the way Pastor Andrea Buenting Olson of Alexandria, Minnesota, Pastor Kent Grosser of Long Lake, Minnesota, Pastor John Malzahn of Muncie, Indiana, Pastor Mark Solyst of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and Pastor Elizabeth Yates of Stephens City, Virginia, have visited and preached.

The congregation looks forward to two other pastors being with them this fall with former presiding bishop Herb Chilstrom of St. Peter, Minnesota on October 7 and Pastor Dennis Johnson of Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 11. However, with the unique history First Lutheran has because of the March 29, 1998, tornado in St. Peter when they became The First Lutheran Catholic Church of St. Peter their good friend Father Harry Behan of Tyler, Minnesota was with them August 19.

The summer schedule of festivities have included three special occasions including the June visit of the Uppsala Sweden Cathedral Choir and in July the visit of eight of the fourteen ordained sons and daughters of the congregation (July 1) and the sponsored missionaries of the congrega-

tion over the years (July 22).

The year of celebration will conclude November 25, 2007, with services led by current pastors at FLC, Alan Bray and Don Holmstrom, and an evening banquet at Gustavus Adolphus College. An updated history of the congregation by another son of the congregation, Don Gustafson, will be released this fall.



First Lutheran Church, St. Peter, Minnesota

The Herbert W. Chilstrom Chair in New Testament

Honoring an exemplary Lutheran leader by preparing future leaders for our church

Why an endowed chair?

An excellent faculty has a profound impact--they challenge and inspire their students to realize their own potential as pastors, preachers, and teachers in and for the church. The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago has always valued its highly-skilled faculty who train the next generation of leaders for the church.

Recruiting and supporting its faculty are priorities for the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Endowing a faculty chair is one of the most significant ways to respond to those priorities.

Currently, three professors of New Testament at LSTC, all significant scholars, teach the Bible as the foundational source of the Christian life. LSTC seeks to continue this long tradition of excellence in Biblical studies by creating an endowed chair in New Testament.

Reading the Bible from its Center

During his 2006 Hein-Fry Lectures, Herbert Chilstrom shared his lifelong love of the Bible. Expressing his concern for the way people use the Bible, he quoted Joseph Sittler:

"the Bible must be read from its Center, from its witness of Jesus Christ, not its edges, trying to use the Bible for purposes for which it was not intended."

LSTC New Testament faculty guide their students to a deeper understanding of the Scriptures in ways that keep Christ at the center.

Through a permanently endowed faculty chair, LSTC will continue to attract and retain the very best faculty

for teaching the New Testament to future generations of church leaders and teachers. The chair will be named in honor of Herbert W. Chilstrom, one of the significant Lutheran leaders of the 20th century.

LSTC is proud to claim Herbert W. Chilstrom as an alumnus through Augustana Seminary, Rock Island, Ill. Chilstrom is an exemplary model of the faithful way in which Lutherans engage the Bible as the fundamental source of faith and life.

Funding the Chilstrom Chair in New Testament

LSTC seeks to raise at least \$1.5 million to create the Chilstrom Chair in New Testament. It will be one of eight faculty chairs endowed during the seminary's \$56 million comprehensive campaign, *Equipping the Saints for Ministry*.

Through your partnership in this effort LSTC will continue to attract and support excellent faculty to teach biblical studies and will honor our pastor, bishop, and friend Herbert W. Chilstrom.

To learn more about the Herbert W. Chilstrom Chair in New Testament:

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
Office for Advancement
1100 East 55th Street
Chicago, IL 60615
773-256-0712

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from your AHA ! I want to inform all of our readership that Arvid and Nancy Anderson will retire from the co-editorship of the AHA's NEWSLETTER. If memory serves me correctly, this will be their 16th newsletter that they have developed. It has been a marvelous source for all of us. Every Newsletter has been read and re-read. The content has given us much in the way of remembering, informing, and looking forward.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership of the AHA, I thank you, Nancy and Arvid, for your very great work on our behalf. I hope you are planning to be in Lindsborg next June so that we can physically thank you for your leadership. Thanks Be To God. **Paul Cornell, President, AHA**

FROM THE CO-EDITORS

We are pleased to introduce the new designer of the Newsletter. She is ANN REZNY who begins her service with this Fall 2007

issue. Ann has had a great deal of experience in the design field. She has worked for Augsburg at the Lutheran Center in Chicago for more than ten years and during that time has designed a number of publications, including those related to Global Mission Events. Currently she designs the *Lutheran Partners* publication. Beginning about 16 months ago she also does work for the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; recent issues of THE EPISTLE have been designed by Ann. Because of Ruth Ann Deppe's central role in AHA at her office at LSTC, she and Ann can have close communication. Ann Rezny lives in Des Plaines, IL. WELCOME, ANN!

As we welcome Ann Rezny we also express our appreciation to Terri Nielsen who served as designer for a number of years. She had to give up her service on the Newsletter because of the demands of her full time job. Terri gave outstanding professional service and was a most congenial colleague. THANK YOU, TERRI!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

George Orescan passed away on May 21, 2007. Our sympathy goes to his wife Elsa, who is secretary of the Board of Directors of AHA, and to their children Jud, David, and Stephen and their wives and eight grandchildren. A Service Celebrating his Life was held at Hope Lutheran Church, New Castle, Delaware on May 26, 2007 where the Orescans are long time members. Pastor Paul Cornell was the presiding minister at the service.

George was born in Gary, IN and was graduated from Purdue, University in chemical engineering. He served in the U.S Army. George's career was spent internationally in the oil and gas industries, managing refineries in the US, Belgium, Kuwait and Newfoundland. In retirement George volunteered as a docent at the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation and was a past president of the Board of the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia.

Seafarers & International House

Rev. James E. Sudbrock is the Interim Executive Director at Seafarers and International House at 123 East 15th St., New York, NY 10003. He writes, "Nearly all of us have experienced stress in the workplace. Fortunately, at the end of the day, we go home, recall the workplace difficulties and received empathy and understanding from our spouse, our neighbor, and sometimes our pastor. By and large, we're refreshed and ready for the next day.

It's not quite that easy on a merchant ship. Seafarers don't get to go home, and there is no spouse, neighbor, or pastor nearby. Living space is cramped. The ocean extends in all four directions as far as the eye can see. There is little refreshment from one day to the next.

For captain and crew, the pastoral care offered by the port chaplain is very nearly a god-send. The port chaplain hears their stories, offers encouragement and refreshes them for the continuation of their voyage. It's priceless, and your donation makes it possible. Thank you for your continued support.

The phone number is 212-677-4800 www.sihnyc.org

Courage of Faith

by Paul R. Nelson

Paul Nelson was awarded the Doctor of Theology degree at Uppsala University in Sweden in May 2007. His thesis has been published, "Courage of Faith - Dag Hammarskjold's Way in Quest of Negotiated Peace, Reconciliation, and Meaning." It is published in the *European University Studies*.

In a letter to Paul & Betty Cornell, he describes the events of Spring Week at Uppsala when the Conferment of doctorates occurred. Among the dignitaries who attended were Kofi Annan, Jane Godall, and David Attenborough. On Pentecost Kristers and Brita Stendahl attended the Cathedral high mass. Paul appreciated the AHA at Chautauqua where memories and good conversation were shared.

Community and the World

Marilyn Jackson, a member of the AHA Board, has written a chapter for the book, *Community and the World, Participating in Social Change*, Torry D. Dickinson, Editor. Marilyn has written a twenty page chapter: "The Life of the People: the Legacy of N.F.S. Gruntvig and Nonviolent Social Change Through Popular Education in Denmark". Marilyn has written several articles for the AHA Newsletter and is a member of the Long Range Planning Committee of the Board of Directors.

Augustana Lutheran Service of Worship

The 12th Annual Augustana Lutheran Service of Worship with Holy Communion will be held Sunday, October 7, 2007, 2:30 pm at Normandale Lutheran Church, 6100 Normandale Road, Edina, MN.

Preacher: Rev. Paul Cornell

Liturgists: Rev. Michael Edwins and Rev. Shawn Mai

Organist: Jack Swanson

Coffee and fellowship following the service.

WELCOME TO THE NEW EDITOR

We are thrilled to announce that beginning in January 2008 for the Spring Issue the editor will be RONALD T. ENGLUND. Ron wrote the excellent article in the Fall 2006 Issue of the Newsletter: "The Story of the Gathering at Chautauqua." He was ordained in 1954 at the Augustana Church Convention in Los Angeles. He served congregations in the United States, Tanzania, and England as well as working professionally as an editor and journalist for many years. His father was Pastor Eskil Englund who was president of the New England Conference of the Augustana Church from 1948-62. Ron and his wife Ruth live at 44 Lakeview Ave., Falmouth, MA 02540 englund@cape.com WELCOME, RON!

THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING

As we publish this our final issue of the NEWSLETTER, we are most thankful to the AHA and the Board of Directors includ-

ing Paul Cornell, President, and Hartland Gifford, Executive Director, for the privilege of serving as co-editors following the formation of the Augustana Heritage Association in 1998 at the Chautauqua Gathering. Donovan Palmquist, who was one of the visionaries of AHA and editor of the Newsletter, "recruited" us to serve as co-editors. Now eight years and sixteen Issues later we look back with gratitude for the privilege of working with so many colleagues, especially Ruth Ann Deppe and Terri Nielsen, together with the many writers of articles and to all you readers for your encouraging support.

We already have a full schedule awaiting with six grandchildren from elementary school to a senior in college, quilting and writing projects, supply preaching, teaching and participation in the life of our congregation, and teaching in the Synod's Diakonia program.

SOLA FIDE Arvid and Nancy Anderson

AUGUSTANA HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

1100 East Fifty-Fifth Street Chicago, Illinois 60615

The Value of Membership in AHA

By becoming a member of the Augustana Heritage Association you join with a large group of people from all over the United States and Canada who are vitally interested in continuing the spirit of Augustana.

AHA is concerned not only with the past as it defines and promotes the heritage of Augustana, but also the present and future as its members faithfully live out their witness in the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

An individual membership is only \$35 for two years. A two-year membership for a household is \$50. Also congregations, institutions and agencies of the church may join for \$100.

Your membership, as well as any additional tax deductible gifts, will enable AHA to be an energetic organization, helping people not only to recognize the contributions of the Augustana Lutheran Church in the past, but to bring Augustana's faithful and dedicated perspective to the church of today and tomorrow.

As a member you receive The Augustana Heritage Association NEWSLETTER which is published twice a year, Spring and Fall.

A Membership Application form is provided in this Newsletter. If you have not joined for the 2007-2008 period, JOIN AHA TODAY! Detach the membership application provided and mail it today.

**AUGUSTANA HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
2007-2008 Membership Application**

Individual membership(s).... @ \$35/ person \$ _____
Family membership(s).....@ \$50/ family \$ _____
Congregations/Institutions.....@ \$100 \$ _____

Also we wish to give a tax deductible gift to AHA
___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 other \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to Augustana Heritage Association

Please enroll the following membership of AHA for 2007-2008:

Name _____

Name (spouse) _____

Address _____

City & State _____

Phone _____ Zip _____

Detach application form and send to:
Augustana Heritage Association
1100 East 55th Street, Chicago, IL 60615-5199

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