

ARVIDSON, BISHOP FRANCIS

Sändebudet

THE MESSENGER

Vol. 86

CHICAGO, ILL., MARCH 15, 1948

No. 6

Bishop Theodor Arvidson of Stockholm, Sweden, Visits U.S.A.

Sändebudet welcomes the opportunity to present to its readers, the Bishop of the Northern Europe Central Conference. It is the first time in the history of the Sweden Conference and of Swedish Methodism, that a native of Sweden has been elected to that high and responsible office in our Church. The Northern Europe Central Conference which elected him in 1946, includes, beside the Sweden Annual Conference, our Methodist work in Norway, Denmark and Finland. He will attend the Methodist General Conference in Boston in May.

We welcome Bishop Arvidson to the Chicago Area as the Lexington Avenue Swedish Methodist Church of New York, and the Immanuel Methodist Church of Brooklyn have invited our distinguished visitor to their Churches in the former Eastern Swedish Conference Area.

We are glad that it was possible for him to plan his visit to America early enough to visit a few of the Churches in the Chicago Area, formerly members of the former Central Northwest Conference.

When we review his program in the East and here, we are prompted to ask all our people to pray that God may give him strength to fulfill this taxing program, so that he may be able to bring the uplifting and inspiring messages that are on his heart, to all who shall be within hearing of them. To us it will also be a welcome voice from the beloved homeland. His itinerary here includes Chicago and Rockford, Illinois, and Racine, Wisconsin.

We take the liberty to print the following from "Budbäraren," the Lexington Avenue Church paper for February-March, 1948: "It was in 1946 that Theodor August Arvidson was elected to the bishopric of the Northern Europe Central Conference when the Church decided a native of Scandinavia ought to hold that position rather than a Bishop elected in the United States which was the custom. The selection of Bishop

Arvidson was indeed a happy one and we of the Swedish Methodist Churches of America were glad and proud. He was highly qualified to receive the high honor in that election because of his rich background of experience and his leadership ability. Sweden's "Who's Who" reveals many facts about our friend.



Bishop Th. Arvidson

Theodor Arvidson was born at Jerpas in the county of Skaraborg, October 13, 1883, and received his education (for the ministry) at the Theological School at Uppsala as well as advanced study in England. He served as pastor of the Växjö Church as well as the Methodist Church at Östersund. Then he held the superintendency of the Northern District of the Sweden Annual Conference before serving the great St. Peters Methodist Church. Then he again became a District Superintendent. From 1931 until his election as a Bishop, Rev. Arvidson served as Superintendent of the Conference Head Office and Book Concern.

Theodor Arvidson was elected minis-

terial delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Church in 1924, 28, 32, 36, 39, 40 and 44. He also represented the Sweden Conference at the European Central Conference at Frankfort on the Main in 1922. He was secretary of the Northern Europe Central Conference at Oslo 1924, and at Copenhagen 1939, and at Gothenberg 1946. He served as President of the Metho-Youth Movement of Sweden 1920-36, and is serving as President of the National Free Church Committee and Central Assemblies since 1943. He succeeded Prince Oscar Bernadotte in 1947 as Chairman of the Evangelical Alliance of Sweden" (Prince Oscar Bernadotte in tendering his resignation after 40 years service expressed his joy that Bishop Arvidson was willing to take up the burdens of that important work together with his many other duties.)

"Budbäraren continues: "Bishop Arvidson has also been active as an author, having written "Methodism with its Doctrines, Organization and Aims," "The Fullness of the Spirit and the Gift of the Spirit," "Sanctification," and he has also translated ten volumes of E. Stanley Jones into Swedish as well as several books of A. J. Russell, Leslie Weatherhead, Paterson Smith and others."

We, in this Country learned with real Christian satisfaction, that the King of Sweden, Gustaf the 5th, took special notice of Bishop Arvidson's election to this high Office in the Methodist Church.

Let all our Swedish people who can, come to the services that have been arranged for Bishop Arvidson; come to the Churches where he is to speak and hear and meet him, and be benefited by the good tidings he will bring to us. We have not as yet learned if the delegates from Sweden to the General Conference, Rev. G. Henrikson from Stockholm, and Rev. Bengt Renblad, and the lay delegates, Dr. Herald Lindström from the University of Uppsala, and Rector Randalph Eimir from Arboga, will visit any

SÄNDEBUDET

(THE MESSENGER)

Dedicated to
Religion and General Intelligence

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of the Methodist Church among its Swedish
Constituency in America

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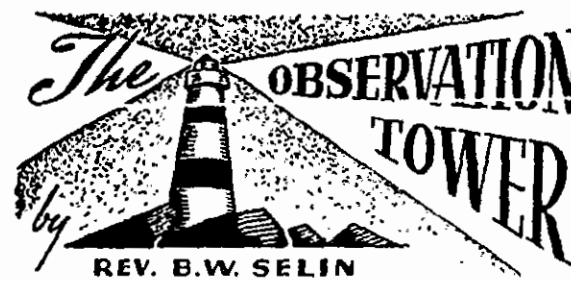
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be addressed to Rev. T. J. Westerberg, 4912
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Communism is making great inroads in many lands around the world. During these Lenten days it is well to recall that Communism is a combined materialistic philosophy and political system that has no place for Christianity. God and His Church are of no concern to Communism.

Communism employs all the forces that Christianity combats, brutality, envy, hatred and force. The goal justifies any means, no matter how much deception, confusion and dishonesty is involved.

The iniquitous fifth column is spreading, even into our own land. Shall a small selfish minority, lusting for power,

of our Churches in America. However, we welcome them as delegates to our General Conference in Boston, and honor them as representatives of our Methodist Church in Sweden.
C. A. S.

rise up to dominate America? The shadows of its approach are discernable. Communism makes promises of order, prosperity, peace and security. But they cannot deliver. Christianity offers the great Easter Hope, abundant life, peace and order and can produce, now as in years gone by.

What shall the world choose, Christianity and Easter with its radiant hope or Communism and a black Calvary for the hopes of men?

May Easter bring a renewed faith in the only way that can set men free—the Christian Way.

NEWS ITEMS

• Editor John P. Seaberg

was called to the heavenly home Monday, March 8, 1948. The funeral services were held in Bethany Home Chapel, Thursday, March 11, 1948, Rev. B. W. Selin in charge. Prof. John W. Swenson preached and David K. Englund read the obituary. Rev. Lawrence R. Axelson sang. The committal was to be the following day in Sheldahl, Iowa. A more detailed story of his life will follow.

• Geneva, Ill.

At the regular meeting of the W. S. C. S. of Emmanuel Methodist Church on Thursday, January 29, Mrs. Herman Miller, in recognition of her services, was the recipient of a gift from the society of a beautiful table lamp. Mrs. Miller served as President of the W. S. C. S. for ten years, and eight years as chairman of the East Side Circle. The gift was made by Mrs. W. C. Johnson who spoke of Mrs. Miller's service to the church and of the love and esteem in which she is held. Mrs. Mac Wolt rendered a solo and a short address was given by the pastor. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Hilma Anderson and Mrs. Oscar Blomquist.

• Minneapolis, Minn.

Emmanuel Swedish Methodist Church has recently observed its 75th Golden Jubilee with large attendances. The pastor Rev. K. G. Norberg had charge of all arrangements. This strong and active church will be given more space in next issue of Sändebudet.

• Escanaba, Mich.

Central Church, Escanaba, is making plans for an impressive Easter season. Under the direction of Pastor Karl Hammar, all Sunday morning services are broadcast and heard throughout the upper peninsula. . . . The Augsburg College Choir presented a concert in

Escanaba on Feb. 16. . . . The M. Y. F. sponsored a Valentine Party. . . . Miss Jean Jones and Mr. Warren Rose, popular Cornell couple, were recently united in matrimony in the Cornell Church with Rev. K. Hammar officiating.

Church Directory

BETHANY METHODIST CHURCH
N. Ashland and Winnemac Aves., Chicago 40
LAWRENCE R. AXELSON, Pastor
Sunday Services, 11:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M.
Sunday School, 9:45 A.M.—M.Y.F., 6:30 P.M.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 8:00 P.M.
WELCOME TO BETHANY!

HIGHLAND AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH
Highland Ave. and Paulina St., Chicago 26
(Formerly First Swedish Methodist Church)
DR. WILL L. COLLIN, Pastor
9:30—Church School
10:45—Morning Worship
A CORDIAL WELCOME TO ALL

BETHANY METHODIST CHURCH
8th St. and 3rd Ave., Rockford, Ill.
CARL J. ERICKSON, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 A. M.—Church School
10:30 A. M.—Worship Service
5:45 P. M.—Youth Fellowship
7:30 P. M.—Evening Service
Wednesdays: 7:30 P. M.—Evening Service

SIMPSON METHODIST CHURCH
(Formerly First Swedish M. E. Church on the Pacific Coast)
439 Guerrero St., between 16th and 17th Sts.
San Francisco, California
M. SUTHERLAND, Pastor
Res. 431 Guerrero St., Phone UN. 0610
(Take No. 22 car to Guerrero St. or J car to 16th St. and walk two blocks)
9:45—Sunday School
11:00—Morning Worship
If you are looking for a Church Home or Church Work Come! We can help you. Come! You can help us. Visiting Service Men and Friends Most Cordially Invited
Here Awaits You A Heartly Welcome

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EPWORTH METHODIST CHURCH
Salisbury and Lancaster Streets
Worcester, Mass.
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10:45—Morning Worship
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Clifford A. Lindberg, Minister
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ROBERT A. DAHL, Pastor

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LONGbeach 9644 Chicago 40, Ill.

NEWS ITEMS FROM THE RELIGIOUS WORLD

• Women's Auxiliary

of Evanston Collegiate Institute of which Mrs. Oliver R. Aspegren is president, would like all the ladies to attend a meeting at the home of Pres. T. O. Firing at 2:30 March 19th. Rev. and Mrs. Westerberg will give speeches of interest about their trip to Sweden.

• Mt. Bellingham, Chelsea

A successful preaching mission was held from Sunday, February 22nd to March 7th under the direction of Pastor Edwin S. Dahl. A number of visiting pastors brought messages of inspiration, directed toward a deepening of the spiritual life and the enlistment of souls in Christian discipleship.

• South Shore, Chicago

Special services will be held during Holy Week. . . . On Palm Sunday, Pastor C. F. Carlson preached on the theme, "By What Authority" and on Easter Sunday the topic will be, "Easter, the Day of Victory." A number of fine Lenten services have been held leading up to the great Easter services.

• Grace, Auburn Park

Feb. 22 was Layman's Day and Mr. A. Lenstrum presided. Laymen assisted in the program and Rev. O. B. Allen preached. The man also had charge of the evening service. . . . The Church School is sponsoring a contest via plane around the world. Mileage is based on attendance, punctuality, Bibles and memory work. . . . On the evening of March 7th, Miss Theresa Worman, "Aunt Theresa" of WMBI's "Know Your Bible" program was the speaker. . . . Mr. Philip Maxwell of the Chicago Tribune spoke at the March Brotherhood Meeting. . . . On Easter Sunday morning two festive services will be held, one at 9:30 a. m. and the other at 11 a. m.

• St. Louis, Mo.

Methodism has lost a fine leader in the death of the Rev. Andrew Swedberg here recently. Rev. Swedberg went out from the Des Moines Church and made a splendid record in Missouri, holding churches of prominence in long and successful pastorates. He was a fine gospel preacher and an industrious pastor. During the last few months he knew intense suffering intimately. None but his closest friends knew that each day was a Gethsemane of physical agony. His doctors did all within their power in surgery and medication. The last two years of his ministry only his courageous

heart and tremendous love for his work kept him going. He wished to be about the King's business to the last and though suffering to a point of desperation sought members for his large church and erring children for the Kingdom. He is survived by his faithful wife, a daughter and son-in-law. A more complete obituary will appear in a later issue of Sändebudet.

• Marengo, Ill.

Holy Week services have been announced by Pastor Earl Olson as follows: On Wednesday evening of Holy Week there will be a reception held for all those who will join the church on Easter Sunday including the preparatory membership class. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered on Thursday evening at 8:00 o'clock. A United Good Friday Service will be held at our church on Good Friday afternoon in which the Baptist and Presbyterian Churches will participate.

An Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the church at six o'clock on Easter Day. The Easter message will be told in a drama written by Dorothy Leamon, entitled "Barabbas," to be presented by a number of the young adults. The Woman's Society will serve the

traditional Easter breakfast. Sunday School will be held as usual at 9:45 a.m. and at 11:00 o'clock there will be a great Easter Day Service.

• Asbury, Chicago

Holy Week services are as follows: Mon., March 22, the Missionary Circle will meet in the church at 8 p. m. Wed., March 24, Lenten Service at 8 p. m. Thurs., March 25, Communion Service 8 p. m.

Fri., March 26, Union 3-Hour Good Friday Service at Faith Presbyterian Church on Augusta Blvd. and Pine, 12 to 3 p. m. Your pastor will be one of 7 speakers. Come when you can and leave when you must.

Sun., March 28, Easter—Special program in the Sunday school; Reception of new members; Japanese student pastor Perry Saito will speak in the Vesper. . . . The Annual Fellowship Dinner of the Norwegian-Danish Fellowship was held at Austin Trinity Methodist Church Saturday evening, March 6 at 6:30. A piano concert preceded the dinner. . . . The Fourth Quarterly Conference, and a Congregational Meeting, beginning with pot luck supper, will be on Thursday evening, April 15 at 6:30. . . . The Board of Stewards met with Rev.

BISHOP THEODORE ARVIDSON'S VISIT TO THE MIDWEST

DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT THE BISHOP WILL SPEAK AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

- Wednesday, March 31, 8 P. M.—Trinity Church, Racine, Wis.
- Thursday, April 1, 8 P. M.—Bethany Church, Rockford, Ill.
- Friday, April 2, 6:30 P. M.—Central Northwest Fellowship Banquet, Central Y. M. C. A., Chicago.
- Sunday, April 4, 8:00 A.M.—Swedish Radio Service over WGES.
11:00 A.M.—Austin Trinity Church, Chicago.
3:30 P.M.—Swedish Service, Bethany Church, Chicago. Music by SKF Male Chorus.
7:30 P.M.—English Service, Bethany Church, Chicago. Music by Bethany Choir.
- Monday, April 5, 10:30 A. M.—Inter Church Council Meeting at Elim Methodist Church, Barry and Kenmore Aves.

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C. Holmgren to check over financial needs for the immediate future. Some repairs must be done; insulating the church ceiling will save fuel in days to come; and the church needs cleaning and re-decorating. It all amounted to \$2,000.00 that shall be needed up to the end of the conference year May 31. Some \$500 of that will come through Sunday regular income. The Board set for itself the task of raising the rest. And a good start was made by the Board members themselves. With similar liberality by everyone it should not be difficult to meet this need.

• **Easter at Immanuel**

On Palm Sunday at 11 a. m., Bishop Theodor Arvidson of the Stockholm Area of the Methodist Church — Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland — will be our guest speaker. He is an outstanding churchman and a gifted preacher.

Union services will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evenings of Holy Week. The speaker on Wednesday evening, when the service is in our church, will be Rev. G. Henriksson of Stockholm, a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Church.

Our traditional Candle Light Communion Service will be held on Good Friday.

Three festive services will be held on Easter Sunday. Pupils of the Sunday School will present an excellent program at 10:00 o'clock.

Morning Worship will begin promptly at 11 o'clock. Glorious Easter music will be rendered by the Immanuel Choir and soloists, Birger E. Ambrose, Director, and Betty McDonald at the Organ. "I BELIEVE IN LIFE EVERLASTING" will be the theme of the pulpit message by Rev. Ivar Pearson.

At 7:30 p. m. our singers will present a special program of Easter music, and there will be an address by Rev. G. Henriksson.

• **Bethany, Chicago**

Mr. Howard Berhalter, our new choir director, was presented at the monthly choral service, Sunday evening, Feb. 22. He is an outstanding baritone soloist and very capable director. . . . Eight new members were received Sunday morning, Feb. 22. . . . Commitment Day was observed Feb. 29. The pastor preached on "To Drink or not to Drink." Many signed pledges to abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages. . . . Recent Sunday evening services have featured Gene Jordan, famous marimist, Mrs. Gene Jordan, soprano, and Warren Zorn, pianist. . . . The Student Nurses' Chorus (50 voices) from the Swedish Covenant Hospital was heard on March 7th. . . . A new set of flags for the Sanctuary has just been dedicated. The Christian Flag was given by the Loa Club and the

American Flag by our Girl Scouts. . . . A special fund is being raised so that our Sanctuary may be redecorated. . . . Our own men are cleaning and painting the smaller rooms. . . . A big "Scrubbing Party" was held on Sat., March 13th. . . . Bethany Choir will present "The Seven Last Words" by Dubois, Palm Sunday afternoon at 4:30 P. M. . . . We are looking forward with high anticipation to Bishop Arvidson's visit to Bethany, Sunday afternoon and evening, April 4. . . . Mrs. Mary Shogren, another faithful member of our church, joined the Church Triumphant, after a very brief illness on Feb. 21st. Services were held in church Feb. 24th with the pastor and Rev. T. J. Westerberg taking part. Interment was in Mt. Olive.



MRS. SOPHIE M. CARLSON,
NEE OLSON

Mrs. Sophie M. Carlson was born in Karlskoga, Sweden, January 13th, 1867. She gave her heart to God early in life, and became an active and faithful member of the Methodist Church. Came to the United States in 1887, and the same year The First Swedish Methodist Church in Los Angeles was organized, and among the names of the Charter Members we find the name of Sophie M. Olson. Mrs. Carlson lived in Los Angeles until her marriage to Oscar Hanson. The young couple moved to San Francisco where they joined the First Swedish Methodist Church. Their married life was very happy, and was blessed with two children, Edna and George B. While the children were still small, the angel of Death came and called brother Hanson to be with His Master whom he loved and served.

It was not easy for Mrs. Carlson to be left alone with two small children. But Mrs. Carlson was a strong character, able and with great courage. She managed the business her husband had left with such success that she was able to give her children a good education. From the start, she and her children worked as partners. They also had mutual interest in the church. Edna became one of the most beloved organists and Sunday School teachers. George found in the Sunday School and Epworth League just the work he loved. The Epworth League of the First Swedish Methodist Church was soon recognized as one of the most active and successful in the San Francisco district. The result was that George was elected President of the District Epworth League. That

her children were so active and successful in the church work brought great joy to their mother.

Sorrow as well as joy sprinkled her path. The death of her husband when the children were small and then the passing of Edna when she was in the flower of young womanhood brought great sorrow.

A gracious happening lifted much of the heavy care and responsibility from her shoulders when she married the christian gentleman C. H. Carlson. They had five beautiful and happy years together, and then in the year 1925 the angel of Death came and called brother Carlson to be with His Master who meant so much to him.

Mrs. Carlson has during her 60 years of membership of the Simpson, formerly First Swedish Methodist Church, been an able and willing worker. She was never too preoccupied with her own problems, but she always could find time to reach a helping hand to others. She was the first to see the stranger who came into the church. Many are they who found a warm and hearty welcome in her home.

Mrs. Carlson was for about 28 years President of the W.F.M.S., and under her leadership they did a remarkable work. She was also a loyal and valuable member of the Official Board.

Last Christmas, as usual at Christmas time, Mrs. Carlson went to Los Angeles to be with her son and his family over the Holiday Season. George B. Hanson is District Passenger Agent, Southern Pacific.

Mrs. Carlson came home to San Francisco after having celebrated with her family her 81st birthday January 13th. At this time her health began to fail and Saturday, February 14th, the star of hope, which had guided her on life's journey, came to a standstill and she beheld the City Celestial and entered into "the temple not made by hands,"

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Finanssekreterare**

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SÄNDEBUDET

heard the Hozannas of the Redeemed, seen "the King on His Beauty" and heard his "Well Done."

Our wishes of consolation go out to the family and we share with them the richest memory of hope.

She leaves a son, George B. Hanson, a daughter-in-law, one grandson, George B. Hanson, Jr., and his wife, Los Angeles, one brother, Oscar Erickson and family, San Francisco, two brothers, Gustav and Frederick Erickson, two sisters, Miss A. Erickson and Mrs. A. Olander in Sweden.

Memorial Service was held Monday, February 16th, conducted by her pastor, M. Sutherland.

"Somewhere back in the sunset
Where loveliness never dies,
She lives in a land of glory,
With the blue and gold of the skies.
And we, who have known and loved her,
Whose passing has brought us tears,
Will cherish her memory always,
To brighten the drifting years."

J. N. Burdell

San Francisco, California
February, 1948.

**BETHANY HOME AND HOSPITAL
ANNUAL MEETING**

(Continued from last issue)

Rev. B. W. Selin, superintendent submitted his annual report which he began as follows: "Here at Bethany the year 1947 marks a chapter of faith as distinctly as does 1889, 1893 or 1926. Success has crowned the efforts of the year. In true humility we thank God that all has gone wonderfully well." He stated that the total expenditure for 1947 amounted to \$234,543.98. The daily cost of operating the Home was more than \$660.00. The average cost of a patient per day in the hospital was approximately \$13.65, and the average monthly cost in the Home per person approximately \$55.00. Food costs amounted to \$55,015.27, an increase over 1946 of about 10%. The monthly food budget averages about \$4,584.00. More applicants for admission applied this past year than ever before. More than 100 approved applications are now on file. The Home family remains constant at the 165 figure.

The following paragraphs are excerpts from Rev. Selin's report: "On April 27 our beautiful chapel was formally dedicated. A large congregation was present as the memorial altar, Kilgen organ, Steinway piano, stained glass windows and oak pews were dedicated. The devotion to this sanctuary undertaking was amazingly evidenced by spontaneous interest. The thrill of that great day still lingers in fond memory."

"The Hospital Division has had a most successful year. A total of 867 patients, 467 surgical and 400 medical, have been

ministered to by skilled and faithful personnel. Except for a brief summer lull, the hospital has operated at maximum capacity."

"The Service Guild has generously provided the Hospital with new anesthesia equipment costing a thousand dollars."

"Our splendid medical staff has met regularly each month to survey the work of the hospital, discuss matters of business, and seek to find through sharing of experiences, new light and direction in their important work. The scientific interest on the part of our capable staff speaks well for the future of our Hospital Division."

"Susanna Wesley Hall has cared magnificently for its quota of young women this past year. During the year the Board decided that in the future, Susanna Wesley Hall would be used primarily to house help needed in our new enterprise. Therefore, young ladies, not connected with our work, will be unable to sojourn at Susanna Wesley Hall after the summer of this year. We regret the necessity of curtailing this vital social service but the imperative urgency of providing lodging for our new employees leaves no other choice."

"The New Building Project. After decades of dreaming and years of planning early summer saw the beginning and realization of these dreams. Encouraged by contractor friends who showed how thousands in construction cost could be saved; a gift and a promise of \$75,000.00 came, providing that the work would soon commence; a life insurance company promised to finance the venture, so after fervent prayer and thoughtful consideration the Board felt definitely that the time had come for launching out and suddenly, on July 23, the work was under way. More than sixteen hundred gifts have been received for the project and a number of other things have been in its favor.

"As the historic year of 1947 takes its place among the other notable years in the golden annals of our beloved Bethany I wish to pay tribute to the conscientious colleagues who have unselfishly helped carry the burden, to the unswerving loyalty of our fine personnel family now

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AXEL HAMMERBERG, President

MARCH 15, 1948

numbering about seventy, to our skilled medical staff, to our great cooperating societies, to our valiant army of Tag Day workers, to our splendid churches and friendly pastors, to our devoted friends, to our energetic Board and to the tireless committee members who have labored long hours in planning the program of the Institution and to Almighty God who has challenged us to move forward as a Christian phalanx, aflame with holy order, panoplied with Christian love to win added victories on the battle fronts of human need. May God's abundant blessing now rest upon the work of our minds, our hearts and our hands."

Other reports were given as follows: For the Auxiliary, Mrs. Carl A. Warner, president, and Mrs. S. J. Linderth, secretary; for the White Cross Service Guild, Mrs. D. R. Rief, president, and Mrs. Mable Swanson, treasurer; for the Home Ladies Aid, Mrs. Hanna Ericson, secretary, and Mrs. Clifford Talbot, treasurer; for the Tag Day Committee, Mrs. John A. Nylin, chairman; Mrs. Talbot, matron; Rev. C. A. Seaberg, chaplain; for the Building Committee, David J. Leaf, chairman, and D. R. Rief, secretary, who reported on the progress of the new hospital building.

Mrs. Carl A. Warner quoted from the Superintendent's report in the 1939 and 1940 year books as follows: "Bethany has a glorious history, it is still in the making, greater achievements must be accomplished. The bigger and better Bethany is still ahead. May it please God whose blessing has so signally accomplished this institution the last fifty years to give wisdom, courage and strength to the coming generation that they may wisely carry on the work of the institution the fathers have established." "The road lies wide open for a greater success in the Home work as well as in the Hospital field. The challenge for the coming generation will be invigorating. Lord give them vision, strength and courage to carry on in the spirit of the Lord."

In view of the progress that Bethany has made the last two years, it was quite appropriate that these statements were brought to our attention.

Mrs. Arthur Lemström, who recently had been elected president of the Linnea Aid Society, which ministers on Chicago's south side, was introduced to the assembly.

Mr. Oliver W. Reese was commended for his ability as a presiding officer by a standing vote of the assembly. Rev. B. W. Selin was in like manner given a sincere vote of thanks for his efficient and conscientious work as superintendent, for on his shoulders has rested great responsibilities and through his ability he has been a driving force in the forward program of Bethany.

Rev. Selin spoke words of appreciation in behalf of the assembly, to Mr. A. G. Berg, who had raised \$500.00 for the new building project.

Dr. Edward Devine, a member of the Home, expressed sincere appreciation for the fine care and attention he had received since coming to the Home. He was formerly a professor at Columbia University and his name is in the "Who's Who."

Among other items of business transacted, election of trustees was held. Upon recommendation of the nominating committee, Rev. T. J. Westerberg, chairman, the following ministers and laymen were elected for a three-year term: Revs. Iver M. Johnson, Edward Evensen, T. J. Westerberg, C. Fridolf Carlson, Messrs. Oliver W. Reese, Richard Carlson, John E. Johnson.

The following trustees were introduced to the assembly: Rev. C. Fridolf Carlson, Rev. Lawrence Axelson and Mr. Richard Westerberg. They had been elected during the year by the Board to fill vacancies.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by Rev. O. B. Allen and the singing of the doxology. O. G. Sandstrom, Secretary.

VAD GÖR KORSET SÅ TILLDRAGANDE?

Joh. 12:32: "Och när jag har blivit upphöjd från jorden, skall jag draga alla till mig."

Dessa Jesu ord föra oss direkt till korset. Ty det lider väl inte det ringaste tvivel att Jesus med orden "upphöjd från jorden" syftar på korsfästelsen. Jesus såg korset högt på Golgota och han själv hängande därpå blodande och döende. Och han såg detta kors draga världens uppmärksamhet till sig.

Underbart att ett kors skulle besitta denna dragningskraft. Tusende andra kors hade rests före detta och tusende skulle restas efter detta. Och ändå känna vi icke ens namnet på någon av dem som hängdes därpå, inte ens de två som korsfästes med Jesus. Vi känna dem endast som "den hotfärdige och den ohotfärdige rövaren."

Endast ett kors, Jesu kors, har dragit världens intresse och uppmärksamhet till sig. "När jag blivit upphöjd från jorden, skall jag draga alla till mig." Vad är det då, som har gjort och gör detta kors så tilldragande?

Det är först och främst det taktum, att det möter på ett tillfredsställande sätt människans hunger efter Gud.

Människan har i alla tider och alla åldrar hungrat efter en uppenbarelse av Gud, efter en "lärare sänd från Gud", på vilken hon kunde följa och helt lita. Hon har känt, att hennes själs eviga intressen var för värdefullt att anförtro åt någon, som var blott människa, och kunde därför vara misstagen. Jesus kom och lärde oss känna Gud, hans vilja med oss och hans förordningar på oss. Och han bekräftade sin auktoritet och att han kommit från Gud, med de mäktiga verk och under, som han utförde.

Och han gav oss sin slutliga bekräftelse på att han var Gud, då han dog på korset. Sant, att hans död på korset bekräftade att han var människa. Gud kan icke dö. Endast människor dö. Och i sin död bekräftade han utom alla tvivel, att han var ett med oss. Men korset bekräftar utom allt tvivel hans Gudom för oss. Ty vem kan stå vid korset och se Jesus dö utan att bli förvissad om, att han var också Gud. Vem kan se honom möta korsets erfarenheter så majestätiskt, utan att bli förvissad om, att hans vittnesbörd om sig själv såsom ett med Gud var oomkullkastligt sant. Vem kan höra honom bedja för sina bödlar, försäkra den hotfärdige rövaren om en plats med honom i paradiset innan dagens slut och anförtro sig åt sin Fader utan att säga med hövitsmannen vid korset: "Sannerligen var denne en rättfärdig man och Guds Son." Detta gör korset oemotståndligt tilldragande. Vid korset bli vi förvissade om, att han, som led och dog där, var visserligen människa, men också Guds Son, sänd oss från Gud att visa oss vägen till Gud.

Vad som gör korset tilldragande är vidare den underbara kärlek, som det uppenbarar.

Djupt i varje människosjäl, som icke blivit alltför ruinerad av synd, finns det en djup åtrå, vilken nästan formlig sig själv till en hunger att älska dem, vilka i självpoffrande kärlek givit sig själv för oss och vår välfärd. Och när vi börja fatta, huru Gud i sin underbara kärlek till oss, givit sin Son att dö på korset för att utplåna våra synder och frälsa oss från förtappelse, då vaknar i vår själ en hunger att älska och tjäna honom, som gjort så mycket för oss. Guds kärlek till oss, uppenbarad i givandet av sin Son för oss gör korset tilldragande. Vi kunna icke hjälpa annat än att bli övervunna av denna kärlek, som korset uppenbarar.

Men vad som vidare gör korset så tilldragande är, att det möter alla våra behov och all vår längtan.

Det tillfredsställer alla människohjärtats krav tillfyllest. Det finns icke något, som är ädelt och rent, som hjärtat hungerrar efter, som ej korset kan skänka åt hungrande själar. Är det kärtefrid du söker? Böj dig vid korset och sök den där. Din hunger efter frid skall snart finna mättnad om du söker i rätt sinnelag. Är det seger över synden du längtar efter? Vid korset finner du kraft att övervinna. Är det bördor, som trycka ner? Vid korset lyftes alla bördor av, om du vänder dig till Kristus där med alla dina bekymmer. Är det hopp för framtiden och evigheten du söker? Vid korset fändes ett ljus i själen som icke slöcknar utan som "lyser mer och mer, till dess att dagen har nått sin höjd."

Hungrande, behövande hjärta! Vad är det du söker? Vad är det du tränar efter? Det är Intet, som är värt att äga för tiden eller evigheten, som du ej kan finna vid korset.

Och naturligtvis är det korsets livsömdanande makt, som gör det så övervåldigande tilldragande.

Vilka underverk av nåd korset utfört! Hjälplösa, hopplösa syndare, ruinerade genom synden och dess makt, hjälplösa människovrak, en börd för sig själv och andra, hava funnit vid korset och genom dess kraft nyfödelse och nyskapelse, deras liv förvandlade och omdanade, och de hava erfarit att "allt har blivit nytt." Detta har varit tusendes, ja, millioners erfarenhet. Hopplösa och förlorade och vilsegångna, hava de funnit det nya livet i Kristus vid korset, och vägen, som leder till Gud och himmel. Ruinerade av synd

till kropp och själ, hava de kommit till korset i bön och bekännelse och stått upp, omskapade av korsets kraft. Det har aldrig funnits en själ så nedsöad av synd och last, att korsets blodskrift ej kunnat tva den vitare än snö och göra den passande att taga sin plats bland änglars skara i de förlorades värld i ljuset.

I vad förhållande stå vi till korset? Har dess kraft övervunnit oss och intagit våra hjärtan? Kan andra se korsets makt och verkan i vad det gjort för oss och med våra liv? Har korset gjorts tilldragande genom oss?

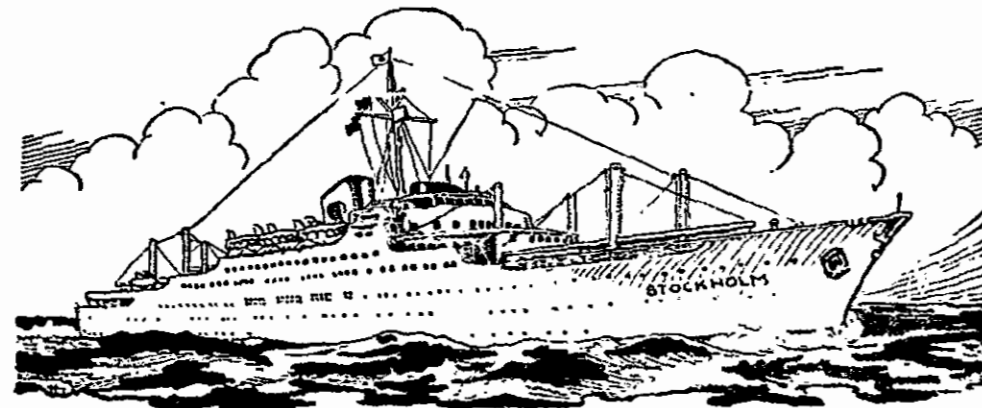
En kines kom till en missionär och bad att han skulle döpa honom. När missionären frågade honom under vems predikau han blivit omvänd svarade han: "Jag har inte hört någon predika, men jag har sett en predikan." Och så började han att tala om en man i Ningpo, som hade varit en slav under opiumvanan, och hade ett förskräckligt humör. Denne man hade kommit i beröring med missionärerna och hade hört dem predika Kristus och hans kors. Han vann snart seger över opiumvanan, och blev en älsklig kristen, genom korsets tilldragande kraft. "Jag har inte hört någon predika, men jag har sett en predikan."

Ja, nå korsets kraft uppenbaras i våra liv. Må vi göra Kristus tilldragande. "När jag varder upphöjd, skall jag draga alla till mig."

John J. Hamilton.

No man can hold another man in the gutter without remaining there himself. —Booker T. Washington

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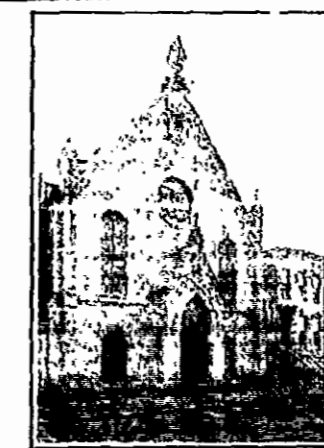
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AF DAVID K. ENGLUND

Vad hätar det att upptaga all sin tid och all sitt intresse med en förgänglig världens omhuldade älsklingsämnen? Den öppna graven ruvar på hög och låg, på ond och god, och det målet undkommer ingen. Med ironiskt hän bemötes varje försök att vinna trygghet i det vanskligas sköte. Människan har mitt i sin härlighet insett beständ, hon är ikk fönnaden som förgås, kvad en sangare långt tillbaka i tiden, men ogärna lys-nar människan till dylika trista erinranden om livets obeständ. Hon är så ohjälpligt intrasslad i vägens lockande tilldragelser, att hon slår ifrån sig varje allvarlig tanke på ett stundande omdrivligt mål. Men med varje steg närmar hon sig det förgängligas mål, graven. Ute på villande hav, i en liten bräcklig farkost, som slagit läck, har hon så brått med att ösa ut det inträngande vattnet, ingen tid gives henne för besinningsfull eftertanke. Hon går miste om det budskap, som ställer sig i skarp kontrast till händelsernas gång. Läckan kan igenfyllas och farkosten brinnas i full säkerhet. Graven är ej ett slutligt mål, endast en hamn, som anhålles för någon tid. Det säger oss påskens budskap.

Hur skönt att tro på en uppstånden Frälsare! Denna tro ligger grundad, icke på ett havs nyckfulla vågor, utan på en oryggelig klippa. "Han är uppstånden!" Hela bibeln fordrar ojävigt en uppstånden Frälsare, och då han själv förutsade sin seger över dödens makter och sin triumferande uppståndelse, skedde detta i full samklang med vad som överallt profeterats. Den krassaste tvivlare kan lätt övertygas genom att grundligt undersöka vittnesbörden från den tid, då Jesus uppstod. Vägen till tron på Jesu uppståndelse har blivit jämnad och utslätad, den enaldigaste behöver inte löpa vilse. I den väldiga arsenal med bevis på Jesu uppståndelse, finner den sanningssökande tvivlaren sig snart besegrad. Förgäves söker kritiker att sönderlösa de fakta, som här satts i dagen. Skulle martyrerne ha gått i döden för en begravnen och uppstånden Frälsare? Samningen hade gripit dem och kommit dem att giva offret. Historien är en enda förkunnelse om den uppståndne Gudasonen. Över de mänskliga lidelsernas stormiga hav se vi Jesus vandra, och när fienderna trott hans sak vara förlorad, har han rest sitt tempel över samtliga ramlande avgudahus och upplyft folken till ljus och glädje. Historien är ogenomsködlig utan en uppstånden Frälsare, med honom klarna gåtorna. Påskens budskap innehåller värden av

en mera personlig art. I den levande Frälsaren äger vi ly och övernog. Jesus lever, halleluja! Han har förlåtit vara synder, skänkt nåd och kraft och led agat oss med sin trofasta hand dag efter dag. Skälet för evig härlighet i Hans gemenskap anses vila på geligen grund. Om Jesus ej vore uppstånden, är den kristnes be-kännelse ett slag i vädret, utan mening och innehåll. I livets växlingar, i solklara dager eller i töcken, förbliver Herren Jesus en i full bemärkelse approved aktualitet, vilken makt döden ej lyckats göra intrång på.

Ett sammelsurium, mer eller mindre, kan med rätta vara den riktiga benämningen på den nuvarande hopgätningen av Jordens länder. Var och hur kommer enstämningen på tal? Om det är möjligt, att de förenade nationerna äntligen funnit en samhörighetspunkt, borde icke upptäckten därav för länge sedan lugnat sinnet och bilagt oron. Faktum är att ingen behöver krama buhuden hårt innan den ställer till värk och värda. Det är inte lindring i världen denna dag, utan en nyckenhet av lätt atkomlig välgrundad rädsla för taran. Avspänn rädslan i dag, i morgon heger den återigen på lur, med högljuddare skrämskott än förut. Morgontidningen:s första sida kallar uppmärksamheten till farans realitet och rädslan stiger i graderna. Det är krig frågan gäller. Ty det tredje världskriget är ej numera avensomsepet, när kommer det är högnalsfrågan? Kan det vara inom reson och giltig grund att ännu ett världskrig far börja spöka på samma gamla jord utan hinder? Vi har långt ifrån lyckats fullt eliminera oss från de rysansvärda sviterna av föregående världskrig, och redan börja orda om nästa krig såsom ett omdrivligt, ruinerande ont. Vid slutet av andra världskriget sadet det allmänt, att nästa krig blir lika med mänsklighetens undergång. At det hållet lutar sig alltså avgörandet. Men varför krig? Jo, det kommer att bestämmas av Ryssland. Det har ju aldrig Ryssland sagt, men uppskrämda människor förlorar balansen och da finner sig oreda och förvecklingar utan ände. Nu säges det, att Finland kommer näst, och sedan far Sverige nog akta sig. Men innan någon sätter svärdet i Rysslands hand torde det vara förståndigt att erinra sig vad Ryssland fått lida och utstå senare aren? Sant, att det är ett stort, makalöst stort land, men det fick under krigets gång vidkänna stora umbäranden, vida mer än något annat land. Hela arméer slaktades, hela städer ödelades, agrrikulturella områden skövlades, det bergertiga standet utsattes för obeskärliga lidanden, fattigdom och nöd. Har under dessa få ar jattelandet hunnit repa sig och återvinna vad kriget frantog dem? Det tar nog längre tid än ett tiotal ar. Och Amerika är ännu i dag världens mäktigaste land, och vem vågar mäta sig med henne?

Ryssland vet nog att hon fick dela Tysklands dubbla öde, om hon gav sig i nappa tag med Amerika. Bäst är att hålla sig lugn och ej låta orosmakare störa en behaglig tillvaro. Att lita på Gud kommer först, och därnäst vara belåten med sitt härliga land, Amerika.

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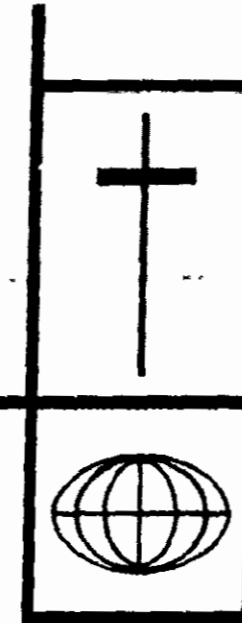
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Bishop Theodor Arvidson
of Scandinavia Dies

Retired Bishop Theodor Arvidson, 70, who administered the work of The Methodist Church in Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Norway and Finland for seven years, died March 12 in Sweden. The Stockholm Area, of which he was bishop, comprises about 29,000 Methodists (full and preparatory members).

Born in Jerpas, Sweden, Bishop Arvidson was educated at the School of Theology at Uppsala, Sweden, and then traveled and studied in England. He was ordained in 1909 and served as pastor of Methodist churches in Vaxjo and Stockholm. Later he was district superintendent of the Northern and Western Methodist Districts in Sweden and book editor of Methodist Publishing House in Stockholm. He traveled and spoke extensively in the United States, and translated many English books into Swedish.

In 1946 Bishop Arvidson was elected to the episcopacy, the second Scandinavian since 1876 to serve as bishop of the Stockholm Area. He was bishop of the area from 1946 to 1953, when he retired from that office and from the active ministry. He was president of the National Free Church Committee and chairman of the Evangelical Alliance, both in Sweden. In 1952 Bishop Arvidson visited India, where he dedicated Theodori Mission, a Methodist mission center built with funds contributed largely by Scandinavian Methodists and was named in his honor.

*** **

(March 17, 1964)

W. W. Reid
Board of Missions and Church Extension
of the Methodist Church
150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, New York

APR 8 1946

Scandinavians Elect Dr. Arvidson a Bishop

The Rev. Theodor Arvidson, D.D., of Stockholm, Sweden, superintendent of the Methodist Church in Sweden, and a recognized leader of the nation's free churches, was elected a bishop of the Methodist Church on April 5, by the Central Conference of Northern Europe, it is announced by the Board of Missions and Church Extension.

He was elected on the first ballot of the Conference presided over by Bishop Raymond J. Wade of Detroit, Mich.

Bishop Arvidson, who speaks English, German and Swedish fluently, is well-known in Methodist circles in the United States, having visited and preached in this country in connection with his membership in the General Conferences of 1924, 1928, 1932, 1936, 1940 and 1944.

Born in Jarpar, Sweden, the new bishop came from a Lutheran home, but early joined the Methodist Church in Stockholm. He was educated at the Methodist School of Theology, Upsala, Sweden, 1903-06. In 1909 he was ordained a deacon at Upsala by Bishop Earl Cranston, and in 1911 an elder at Stockholm by Bishop William Burt.

After successful pastorates in the Sweden Conference, he was appointed superintendent of the Western District with headquarters in Gothenburg, seat of Union Theological Seminary for all Scandinavia. Later he was elected book editor and manager of the Methodist Publishing House in Stockholm.

During the recent World War and until the collapse of Germany, Bishop Arvidson was the channel through which the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church kept in communication with Methodists in Denmark, Norway, Finland, and the Baltic states, as well as Sweden.

Bishop Arvidson is the author of "The Methodist Church," "The Fullness of the Spirit" and "Sanctification," in Swedish; and he has translated twelve other religious volumes from German or English into Swedish.

W. W. Reid
Board of Missions and Church Extension
of the Methodist Church
150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N.Y.

released upon receipt

Bishop Theodor Arvidson, of Stockholm, Swedish-born Episcopal head of the Northern Europe Central Conference of the Methodist Church (American), will be the guest-speaker at

on . Bishop Arvidson was elected to the episcopacy in 1946 while serving as superintendent of Methodist work in Stockholm. He is giving a series of addresses in American cities, particularly in Minnesota, where Methodists have undertaken special projects in his territory as part of the "Advance for Christ and His Church."

Bishop Arvidson is the Episcopal head of Methodist church and mission work in Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, the Baltic States, and of Methodist missions in Russia. During World War II he was in Sweden, and as editor and book agent, kept the Methodist Publishing House in Stockholm producing religious books. He has translated a large number of English books into Swedish, including most of the writings of Dr. E. Stanley Jones, the missionary and evangelist.

Born in Jerpas, Skaraborg, Sweden, he was educated at the School of Theology, Uppsala, Sweden, and then travelled and studied in England. In 1906 he was ordained a minister of the Methodist Church and served pastorates in Vaxjo, and Oster-sund, and St. Peter's Church, Stockholm. He was then successively superintendent of the Northern District of Sweden, superintendent of the Western District, book editor, and bishop.

Bishop Arvidson is now on his ninth visit to the United States. His last visit was in 1948 when he was a delegate to the General Conference in Boston. He is one of the best-known free church leaders in Scandinavia, and has served in many interdenominational posts. He is now president of the National Free Church Committee and General Assemblies; he succeeded Prince Oscar Bernadotte as chairman of the Evangelical Alliance in Sweden; is an officer of the Nordic Ecumenic Institute at Sigtuna; and chancellor of the School of Theology in Gathenburg.

Sweden's "Who Is Who."

Theodor August Theodor, Bishop, Stockholm.

Born at Järpen, county of Skaraborg, October 13, 1883.

Parents: Nellie Lars Johan Arvidson and his wife Mrs. Christina born Blom.

After preparatory schooling he studied at the Theological School of Theology at Uppsala, Sweden, 1903 - 1906, Conference Course of Study 1906 - 1911, in England 1913.

Pastor of Växjö Methodist Church 1906 - 1909; Jeterund 1909 - 1915; District Superintendent Northern District of Sweden Annual Conference 1915 - 1918; Pastor of St. Peter Methodist Church 1918 - 24; District Superintendent Eastern District 1924 - 31; Superintendent of Conference Head Office and Book Concern 1931 - 46; elected Bishop of Northern Europe Central Conference 1946.

Theodor Arvidson was elected first ministerial delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Church 1924, 28, 32, 36, 39 (Uniting Conference, 40 and 44; he also represented the Sweden Conference at the European Central Conference at Frankfurt on the Main 1922 and in Berlin 1930. He was secretary of Northern Europe Central Conference at Oslo 1924, at Copenhagen 1939 and at Gethonburg 1946. Serving as President of the Methodist Youth Movement of Sweden 1920 - 36 and is serving as President of the National Free Church Committee and General Assemblies since 1943. He succeeded Prince Oscar Bernadotte 1947 as Chairman of the Evangelical Alliance in Sweden and is since many years Member of the Lomenical Committee of Sweden and of the Board of Nordic Lomenical Institute at Siguna. He has acted as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Scandinavian School of Theology at Gethonburg, Sweden, since 1936, and as Chancellor of the same School 1946.

Theodor Arvidson has written "The Methodism with its Doctrines, Organization and Aims" (3 editions), "The Fullness of the Spirit and the Gift of the Spirit" (2 editions), "Sanctification", and translated ten volumes of E. Stanley Jones into Swedish, as well as several books of A. A. Russell, Leslie Weatherhead, Peterson Smith, and others.

died March 12, 1964

30/4-1946.

Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
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