

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 8/12/2022

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

In 1928, a young Lutheran pastor started a mission congregation in the western Iowa town of Avoca. In seven years, this Danish Lutheran church grew in size and stature, fulfilling all the requirements and expectations of a mission congregation. This pastor had a passion for youth ministry going all the way back to when he was growing up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His fervor for working with youth continued through college and seminary and into his Iowa congregation. This Danish American pastor is credited with being the founder of the National Luther League.

At the age of 36, while he and his young family were returning from a National Luther League conference in Colorado, an automobile accident took the life of this pastor and of his infant son. His wife and three other children survived. Following his death, this poem was found in his desk:

S'POSEN

S'POSE an angel should whisper to you
As you lay in your bed tonight,
That on the 'morrow the LORD would call—
That your soul should take its flight—
That your time had come, and the daily sun
Would no longer dispel the night?

S'POSE you awakened from your night of sleep,
When the sun arose at dawn,
And remembered the words which the angel spoke,
That you'd die when the sun went down;
Would you kneel at your bed and say as HE said—
“Not mine, but THY will be done?”

S'POSE you then went about your day—
The last one under these skies—
With a worried look and a frown on your face,
With fear in your heart and eyes;
And you waste away the entire day
Your voice filled with sobs and sighs.

S'POSE you would think of the wrongs you'd done
By thought or word or deed?
And you'd try to repair them ere the setting sun
Made it impossible for any to heed!
Would forgiveness be sought
And kind deeds be wrought
Lest more excuses before GOD you'd need?

OR WOULD YOU be glad as you 'rose from your prayer

That soon your MASTER you'd see?
And you'd spend the whole day the usual way
Knowing how pleased CHRIST JESUS would be
That you lived EVERY day
In the CHRIST-like way—
“LOVE OTHERS; and BELIEVE IN ME!”

That young pastor, the author of this poem from 1935 was Rev. Carl A. Nelson, my grandfather.

In CHRIST'S love,
Pastor Jeffrey