

Julius E. Karl
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Autobiography

On the fifth day of April 1931, I was born as the only son and third child into the family of Julian and Karoline Karl. The residence of my parents at the time of my birth was Pinino, about hundred miles south-east of Danzig, West Prussia.

My parents are German. My father was the son of a family of seven children and my mother a daughter of a family of nine. Both received only elementary education. They were sincere Christians, and happily married until 1942 when my father was drafted to the German army from which he never returned.

Due to the instability of the times, my education prior coming to college was rather poor. The war interrupted the continuity of public school education. The last class session ended approximately in August 1944. Followed by the chaotic years of 1945 - 1948, I had no opportunity to make up for the loss. After failing to pass the entrance examination to enroll in the Gimnasium, I accepted a position as apprentice with a furniture manufacturing firm. Concluding a three years service, I successfully passed

the examination in April 1951, and received a certificate as cabinet maker. In the following years, from 1951 - 1962 I attended various night schools such as the Volkshochschule in Germany and Central Secondary School in Hamilton, Ontario. The subjects of special attention were English, history, and chemistry.

The hopeless years immediately after the war caused many people to leave Germany. My mother with my sisters and I also decided to leave. We immigrated in Canada. on Dec. 24, 1953, making Hamilton our permanent home.

Although the first two years were times of hardship and isolation, I, nevertheless, tasted the benefits of the new land. As my English improved, new opportunities unfolded before my eyes. When I received a catalog from Anderson College in 1961, I had to decide against seeking admission because of insufficient command over the English language. After continuing night school for another year, I finally won acceptance as a full time student at Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon, in September 1962.

The decision to go to Warner Pacific was based on the proposition that I would study under the two-year Churchmanship program. The first grade report showing a grade point ratio of 3.4 with 17 hours convinced me that I should change my educational program from Churchmanship to the Bachelor of Arts in order to lay a foundation for later graduate studies. Credit for this change partly goes to some professors who encouraged me to make this step.

Education prepares for the tremendous task that we call life. Every individual person owes some kind of contribution to society in which he finds himself placed. Young Lincoln's guiding motto was "I will prepare myself; my chance will come." It is also my responsibility to prepare. Union Theological with its independent religious orientation promises me a good opportunity for such preparation. Union's broad educational program, academic excellence, and synthesis of inter-continental ideas always attracted my interest. It is one of the most outstanding institutions providing excellent opportunities for my educational goals.

My life objectives are the Christian ministry or teaching in college. At the present time, I am unable to commit myself, but these two areas are of special interest to me.