

## CHAPTER FOUR

### JULIUS EWALD KARL

#### Youth, Education, and Christian Commitment

The war had interrupted the education of all the Karl children. Julius was able to finish 5<sup>th</sup> grade before the schools were closed. After escaping to West Germany, in 1947 he enrolled in as cabinet-making apprenticeship. During that time, at the urging of his mother, he attended a Church of God youth convention where he surrendered his life to Jesus Christ and committed to be a Christian. He was 16. That decision was to determine the course for his life. He told how he had lied to his teacher about why he needed the time off. When he came back from the convention, he asked the teacher to forgive him for lying and told him he had gotten “saved.” The teacher scorned him and told him he would never trust him again. He was apparently a rough man who threw blocks of wood at Julius and the other students when they made a mistake.



Julius told about having stolen several pocket knives from a store. He went to the storekeeper and confessed. The storekeeper asked, “Does anyone know about this? Did anyone see you?” When he said, “No,” the storekeeper forgave him and told him not to mention it again. Julius also told about his habit of lying and how he would go to the toilet and fall on his face and cry out to God to help him always tell the truth. He said sometimes his classmates would sneak in and listen to his prayer and make fun of him when he came out. With this practice, he was able to break the habit and give God the praise.

He completed the apprenticeship. The cabinet he made for his graduation piece is the only furniture the Karl family brought across the Atlantic when they immigrated to Canada in 1953. It sat in his sister Frieda’s house until the early 1980’s, when Julius brought it to our home in Livonia, Michigan. Our daughter Caroline is now in possession of that heirloom.



*Above: Julius on left with his cabinet-making classmates and teacher, c.1947  
Right: Julius as apprentice, Germany 1947*



When Julius was 19 or 20, he was called upon to give messages at the Church of God in Germany, and at a young age was considered the pastor. He always said it was his mother who encouraged him to preach the gospel. *(Right: Julius 1949 in Germany)*

*(Below: Julius with sisters Gertrud (left) and Frieda (right) Germany, 1950)*

