

Den 15 september 1880 ingick han äktenskap med fröken Alma Christina Lind, som nu står djupt sörjande vid hans bår. Detta äktenskap har välsignats med tvenne döttrar, Bertha och Annie, hvilka begråta en kär fader. Han efterlämnar dessutom tvenne bröder, en syster, en aldrig svärfar, en moster och deras familjer. Vid hans bår stå sörjande klasskamrater, ämbetsbröder, medlärare och studerande vid Bethany, hela Bethaniaförsamlingen, hela staden Lindsborg och omnejd, vår synods svensk-amerikanska läroverk, hela vår synod, en stor del af den svensk-amerikanska nationaliteten och tidningspressen.

Han afled i Los Angeles, Calif., den 16 februari i en ålder af 46 år, 7 månader och 21 dagar.

Nu har han slutat. Nedböjda, sorgsna stå vi vid hans bår. Nyss hörde jag en af hans forna lärjungar yttra: Vi hade svårt att undvara honom en enda vecka, nu få vi honom ej åter.

Hans arbete, hans lifsgärning, hans minne lefver, hans själ lefver i ro hos sin Gud, som han sökte och älskade, hans stofthydda skall uppstå förklarad i den första uppståndelsen. Till dess hvile han i frid!

Till slut erinras blott därom, att på broder Swensson kan med skäl tillämpas Ap. Pauli ord i 2 Kor. 6 kap., v. 4, 6-10.

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### Sermon by President Gustav Andreen.

I THESS. 5: 12, 13.

“But we beseech you, brethren, to know them that labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them exceedingly highly in love for their work’s sake.”

It is in accordance with God’s command, that we should highly esteem our leaders in the Lord while they live and labor among us. This appreciation has to some extent been shown towards our departed God-given leader, Dr. Carl Swensson, during his life-time. But oh, with what strength and depth this feeling of love, of appreciation overflows in our hearts when we now stand at his bier and for the last time on this side of eternity view his face. Who can express the personal grief, the sense of loss, the woe of separation we all feel as we assembled from near and far to take his mortal remains to their last resting place! As we look upon his arduous labors, consid-

er his unflinching courage, reflect upon his noble career of usefulness and blessing, and remember the love and kindness which ever was manifested in his relation toward us all, we feel indeed that we have lost a leader in Israel and our heart swells with appreciation of him as a friend and as a chief, in the words of St. Paul, we esteem him as perhaps never before exceedingly highly in love for his work's sake.

Dr. Swensson was a man of unusual natural gifts, which indeed appeared even in his boyhood and youth. A careful training under the direct guidance of his father prepared him for taking a prominent place from the very first at his College home. After completing his course at the College and Seminary, he has resided at but one place, here in Lindsborg. In this community he at once became the central figure, his influence ever spreading until it was felt throughout the state and nation.

This influence was based, however, upon the personal interest and sympathy he ever manifested for all who came near his noble personality. In his large and generous soul he had room for many friends. "I love him" said one, "because I know he feels interest in me as a human being." He had a wonderful power of entering into an intimate personal relation to those with whom he associated; he appreciated with kindness of heart the thoughts, the situation, the aspirations, the environment, the moulding influences, the work of all who came within the range of his strong personality. To few men is the gift given in so high a degree as to Dr. Swensson to be, as St. Paul says, "all things to all men." Hence men of widely different character, education and walks of life unite in calling him friend, unite in praising his greatness and also unite in a common sense of sorrow and bereavement when he now is called from our midst.

This power over men was hallowed by his desire to win all for that which was good and noble. For in his heart there burned ever highly his deep sense of responsibility before God. To him alone did Dr. Swensson look for guidance, and often he felt assured of this guidance, when the rest of us hesitated and faltered. At a most important juncture in the history of his great life work he poured forth his soul in a sermon on the faith of Abraham who believed even though he saw not; it was but the expression of his own burning faith, by which he warmed and strengthened his weaker brethren.

It was this faith alone, this reliance upon God, which gave him strength in the pursuance of his work. And work was indeed the joy of his life. What unceasing activity was his! When saw you him idle? At the dedication of the new College



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building on these grounds he spoke fiery words on the necessity and blessedness of work. He seemed almost to realize that his day of labor would be short and hence his wonderful energy knew no rest. And how effective it has been! He has made his influence felt along many lines not only in this community, but he had become national in his import. Everywhere throughout this country his tongue and pen aroused love and enthusiasm for our greatness as a church, everywhere his voice was heard calling the youth to prepare for life's battle by obtaining a Christian education, in innumerable hearts has he strengthened the fires of love for the fatherland, of patriotism for this country with its great opportunities, has set before us the ideal of true American manhood and citizenship.

Here at his home we think of Dr. Swensson especially as the pastor and educator, and know not in which work he was the greater. As an educator Dr. Swensson laid the foundation of an institution, which will ever perpetuate his memory as a benefactor of his western country. He believed most fervently in education and was willing to sacrifice all to advance this noble cause. And in building up Bethany College he filled others with this same fervor, who were willing to follow where he led the way, yea and to gather up the standard when it fell from his dying hand and carry it forward to other victories. Here Dr. Swensson has gathered the hope and future of our country, the youthful host he loved to associate with, whose hearts he wished to influence and educate, so that noble manhood and womanhood might be exemplified in their lives. While he was at the head of this host engaged in the mighty struggle against ignorance and evil and pusillanimity, the hand of death fell upon him; a noble death, indeed.

When you enter the main door of Bethany College the eye is met by a painting representing Gustavus Adolphus kneeling on the soil of Germany praying for the blessing of God upon his undertaking to battle for liberty of conscience and of faith. It was not by mere chance that this painting was placed there. There are many points of similarity between the golden locked hero of the North and the great founder of Bethany College. Both began their work in prayer, both had an unshaken faith in God, both received in their efforts the blessings of God. The career of both was all too brief. Many a time have we pictured before our mind the scene at the battlefield on Lutzen when the King at the moment of danger lead the attack, from which his white charger returned with empty saddle, a sign to the soldiers that the hero had fallen. Then was heard the cry which yet resounds in our ears: "We will die with our King or conquer

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in the cause for which he died!" And in the name of God they went forward, some to death indeed, but all to victory.

To-day we hear the cry again. "The charger's saddle is empty. The pulpit he has filled during a quarter of a century, the president's office, the rostrum, the editor's chair, all alike, await in vain his return! Our leader has fallen!"

Friends, let us rally around the noble cause of our dead leader and joining hands and our strength carry it forward! You children of Bethany who are here assembled surely feel this as one of your most sacred duties. This congregation and community will surely exert themselves to the utmost for an institution which has brought them so manifold blessings. This Kansas Conference in whose midst is located an institution of rank will yield the deepest concern and care to its perpetuation. And you shall find that friends shall everywhere rejoice and join you in this noble work.

Eminent as Dr. Swensson was as an educator and orator, many love most to think of him as a pastor. In his personal intercourse with his flock, with those who came to him for religious guidance, there was a deep insight, a warmth of heart, a power to comfort, to elevate, to strengthen which made him a spiritual father indeed. Many of you who are present here to-day think with gratitude of the sick he cheered, of the dying he has comforted, remember the instruction you yourselves have received not only as catechumens and hearers, but also and perhaps especially in private and intimate conversation, on the highest needs and aspirations of your soul. Perhaps he has asked you, as I remember he once in a holy hour asked me: "My friend, have you found place with God?" Perhaps, yea, surely, in many an hour of doubt and tribulation he has directed you to the source of our salvation, to the Lord Jesus, in whom he believed and whose servant he was. To-day his lips are silent, but the memory of the words they have spoken shall ever live among us as long as hearts are grateful and as long as God gives his people grace to obey the injunction we read at the beginning of our memorial, to appreciate them that labor among us and are over us in the Lord and to esteem them exceedingly highly for their work's sake. Amen.

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Address, Dr. R. F. Weidner.

I will not detain you long. I will be very brief. St. Paul has given the following description of his life and character