

He Gave God Glory

HE GAVE GOD GLORY
The story of Olof Olsson

by Bror Carlsson

Revision and layout by Alf Brorson

Translation by Martin Ringstrom

**Illustrations by Petter Brorson, Göran Hagegård
and Björn Östlund**

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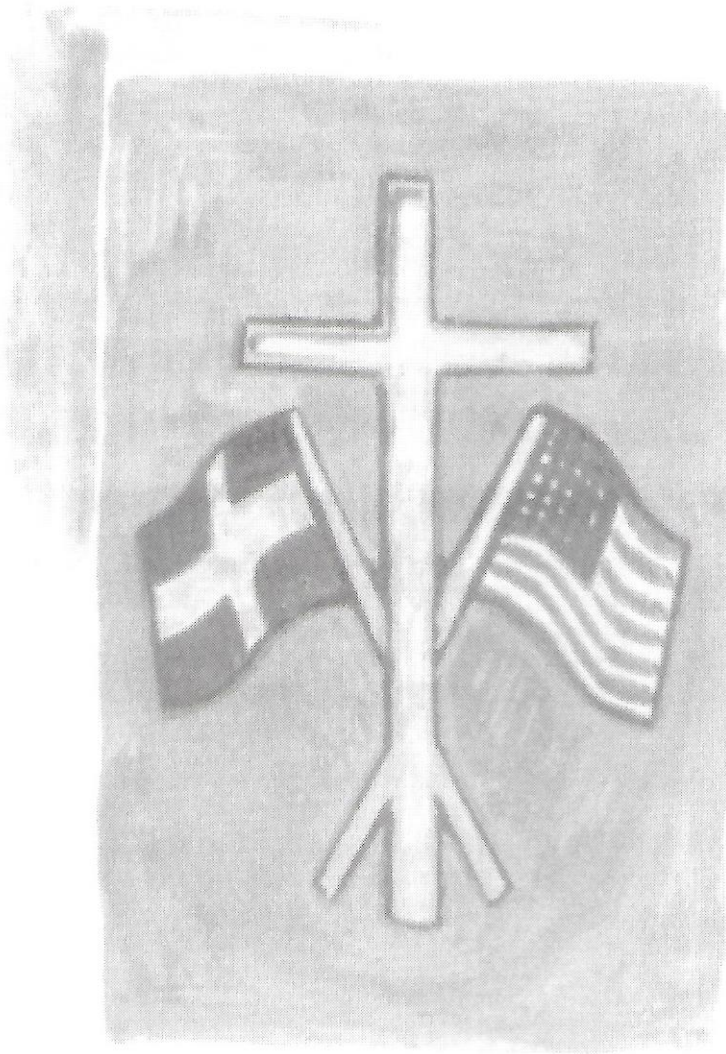
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Translation from Swedish by Pastor Martin T. Ringstrom.

Revision of the original manuscript, editing and layout by Alf Brorson.

Illustrations by Petter Brorson (pp. 7, 11, 34, and 37), Björn Östlund (pp. 3, 9, 10, 14, 15, 23, and 25), and Göran Hagegård (p. 8). Cover illustration is based on an original watercolor by Petter Brorson showing the commemorative marker at the site of the original Bethany Church, Lindsborg. Original sketch of front cover illustration (page v) by Axel Hennix.

Photographs provided by American friends of Rev. Bror Carlsson and from the Brorson family's private collection; the photo of Dr. Olof Olsson (page vi) could very likely be a gift from *Olssonbarnen* Hannes and Lydia in 1951.



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*Original sketch of front cover illustration of Jag Sökte Icke Mitt,
by the artist Axel Hennix, Värmland, 1953.*



Olof Olsson, 1841–1900.

Founder of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, Kansas, August 19, 1869; professor at Augustana College and Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, 1876–1888; pastor in Woodhull, Illinois, 1890–1891; president at Augustana College and Theological Seminary, 1891–1900.

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Translator's Foreword

When Alf Brorson visited Lindsborg in June of 1993, he gave a lecture and showed pictures taken in Sweden and in the United States. At that time he told the audience about his father's research on Olof Olsson and showed copies of the book, *Jag Sökte Icke Mitt* (I Did Not Seek My Own). Since Brorson speaks excellent English, he was asked whether he would translate the book into English. He said, "No, but if the book were to be translated, I think it should be done by someone whose native language is English."

I believe Brorson felt that a person born and raised in America might do a better job with certain expressions that cannot be translated literally from one language to another. I am sure Brorson would have made an excellent translation if he had done it himself, but it has been both a pleasure and challenge for me to assist with this project.

I must acknowledge the help of several persons. First, I wish to thank my friend and brother-in-law, Pastor Robert Segerhammar, for putting the translation on his computer. I also express thanks to his wife, Janice Houk Segerhammar, for proof reading the manuscript with particular attention to grammar and clarity of thought. I am also grateful for an evening of consultation with friends, Inga-Lill Eliason and Mai-Britt Hawk, natives of Sweden but now long-time residents of America, who were able to help me understand some Swedish words and expressions that were relevant in Olof Olsson's time but are now obsolete.

I must also express appreciation to my friend, A. John Pearson, who introduced me to Alf and Maud Brorson. I think he may have anticipated what has happened.

Finally, I wish to thank Alf Brorson for his friendship and encouragement. He was able to supply me with historical information which I needed in order to understand clearly the first half of the book. This explains the use of footnotes which were not found in the Swedish version.

I have received two additional benefits from this project. I had previously read very little about Olof Olsson or anything written by him. I feel that I am now better acquainted with him, his life and his thought. He was truly a humble servant of the Lord who achieved greatly for Jesus and the the people of God.

I have also acquired two new friends, Alf and Maud Brorson – two of God's humble and committed servants.

Pastor Martin Ringstrom

Lindsborg, Kansas

May 14, 1994

Foreword

My father, Bror Carlsson, was a pastor of the Church of Sweden. At the time of his death he left a manuscript dedicated to “the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church with Gratitude and Respect.” This manuscript entitled *I Did Not Seek My Own* contains 350 pages of typewritten material and deals with “The Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church in the U.S.A. during the years 1860–1900 with particular attention to a Värmland native, the pioneer pastor, Olof Olsson.”

My father had the opportunity to trace Olof Olsson’s life both in Sweden and abroad. He had become interested, as a pastoral colleague expressed it with astonished reservations, in “the career of Pr. Olof Olsson, the remarkable pastor from Värmland.”

My father finished his work on the manuscript on November 4, 1955, at the Jösse Ny parsonage, Värmland. After that, various circumstances prevented its final editing and publication. I have tried many years later to complete my father’s work. I have retained the original design of the manuscript as nearly as possible but have condensed its contents.

As a result, *I Did Not Seek My Own* (in English as *He Gave God Glory*) has become the portrait of a genuine human being, Pr. Olof Olsson.

He could have been my father.

Alf Brorson

Silvertunga har
jag icke, guld. Myn
icke heller, jag har
blott ett helt vanligt
Människohjärta. Hvad
detta hjärta längtar
efter, hvad som gör
detta hjärta rikligt,
hoppfullt och glädt,
det säger jag till
andra Människohjär-
tan

O. Olsson

"I do not have a silver tongue nor a golden voice. I only have a normal human heart. Whatever this heart desires, whatever makes this heart rich, hopeful and happy – that is what I sincerely speak to other human beings."

– Olof Olsson