

Him. You will then learn the good purposes He had in view in permitting this sadness to befall you.

And now may the God of all grace and mercy, the God of all comfort and consolation, console your hearts with His heavenly grace and mercy. May He strengthen you with His help, and give you after days of mourning, days of sunshine and gladden your hearts in all things and when the hour of your own departure is come, may He be your staff, your comfort, your guide, your life, your all.

Remember your dad as a fine and splendid leader in church, state, and in the educational field, if you will. But remember him especially, as a follower of a great Saviour. Remember him, as a true Christian friend and father. Remember him, as a truly great Christian gentleman.

*Grant us thy peace, O Lord,  
Throughout our daily life,  
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;  
And when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal Peace."*  
AMEN.

DR. PAUL ESPING.

(Bethany '10, Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Kansas.)



## The Obituary

Dr. Ernst F. Pihlblad has gone. "His Lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou has been faithful over a few things; I will set thee over many things, enter into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21.

It will be impossible to evaluate fully the rich and varied life of Dr. Pihlblad in a brief resume. I find it the most difficult task ever assigned me to give a brief summary of one of the truest friends that you and I ever had. Dr. Pihlblad's life story will never be fully written with pen and ink, but it will remain inscribed deep in our hearts and souls. He has left sacred memories with us that shall linger until we meet him in Glory. We have gathered this afternoon from near and far to pay our respect to a man we loved. The sentiment of this vast congregation is well expressed in the words of our Lord: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Dr. Pihlblad looked forward to many more years of usefulness and association with his friends. However, he realized that his strength was failing and that his days on earth might be numbered. The last time I visited with him, he opened his heart and mentioned among other things that he felt that his life work was nearing its close.



He planned to spend Christmas with his dear ones: "I do love my boys and their families."

That afternoon he asked me to go with him to the resting place of Marie. With difficulty he bent low and once more placed a token of love on the resting place of the one he loved. When our prayer was ended, he remarked, "It may not be long until I shall be with her."

Dr. Ernst F. Pihlblad was born in Kansas City, Missouri, March 18, 1873. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. John Pihlblad. They came to America with the great migration of Swedes during the sixties and joined the vanguard of those who pushed on towards the Middlewest of our great country. The father established a grocery business in the growing town of Kansas City. The scene of Dr. Pihlblad's childhood retained an attraction for him, and he often recalled the friends and playmates of his boyhood. However, the growing metropolis was not to be the scene of his life activity. As a young man he came to Lindsborg, Kansas.

He matriculated in the first class of Bethany Academy and continued his studies in Bethany College, from which he graduated in 1891, attaining top ranking in his scholastic work. He matriculated at Augustana Theological Seminary and was ordained with the class of 1894 on a call to the pastorate at Paterson and Passaic, New Jersey. Augustana Theological Seminary awarded him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1906 and the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters was conferred upon him by Bethany College in 1941.

Dr. Pihlblad was united in marriage to Miss Marie Sjostrom, in Paxton, Illinois on July 5, 1894. The Pihlblads home was a God-founded and a Christ-directed home. Though the activities of the father were varied and his interests widespread, the home remained at all times the center and attraction of his affections. Here he enjoyed to unite with his family, to meet and entertain his friends. Neighbors, students, teachers, artists and statesmen were guests of this home. The most sacred moments clustered around the home altar, and life's many problems and joys received mutual consideration in the home circle. The Pihlblad home will live a cherished memory until we shall be united with them in our longed for home.

Dr. Pihlblad was a clear thinker, with a well-trained mind. He was a school man and educator. He was not only one of the foremost educators in the Augustana Synod and the Lutheran church, but also in the entire field of education. To him education was character building upon Christian fundamentals. He recognized God in creation, and heard the voice of Jehovah in the heavens. To him, Faith was as firm as the ground upon which he walked; Hope, as clear as the stars in the heavens, and Love, as true as the heart that beats in the bosom.

Dr. Pihlblad's entire ministry was devoted to the Kansas Conference with the exception of one year. He consecrated his life and talents



to our Bethany college as teacher, administrator, and president. Dr. Pihlblad was a professor at Bethany when in the dead of winter, the founder of Bethany college closed his eyes in death out on the coast of the Golden Gate. Those days in February, in the year 1904, were gloomy days. To our tear dimmed eyes, the future of Bethany appeared dark and hopeless. Who then would fill the place of Bethany's founder? The mantle fell on the college professor. At a place now marked by one of the most impressive temples in any rural community, in the month of May, 1904, the Kansas Conference extended the call to the young teacher to become the President of Bethany college. It was a high call that placed weighty responsibilities on youthful shoulders.

There were hard problems ahead and it was difficult to dream dreams and see visions. However, a loyal people looked ahead with the young school president. By realistic planning and hard work, there came into being new buildings; a Presser Hall home for the "Messiah", and a substantial endowment fund to secure the future of Bethany College. Dr. Pihlblad has contacted and influenced hundreds of young people both within and without our Church. We, his students, shall miss our beloved, "Prexy". His signature on our diplomas and credentials shall mean more to us than ever before. The alumni of Bethany college bow in humble gratitude before our Master-Teacher at the final call He has extended our beloved leader.

Dr. Pihlblad was not only an educator but also a school administrator. He pleaded the cause of Bethany well, and it is mainly due to his untiring efforts that Bethany now has a large number of friends and benefactors. Dr. Pihlblad believed firmly in church-related colleges, and put forth every effort to promote their program. However, he did not confine his interest and activity to these institutions for he was a factor in the whole field of education.

Dr. Pihlblad extended his influence beyond the sphere of higher education. He was a community friend, a State leader, and a National figure. He held positions of trust in this and other communities and his advice and counsel was eagerly sought. He was a Kansan in spirit and rendered to his State valuable services. He was a member by appointment, on the Kansas Text Book Commission, and of the Board of Education. He did not seek political office and held only one to which he was elected, serving two terms in the Kansas Senate. His statesmanship ranked high, and he proposed and supported several important measures. He was offered the post of State Treasurer by Governor Landon, but on account of his many duties at Bethany and in the Church, he declined the appointment. He was appointed by Governor Ratner as a member of the State Merit System Board, and selected as its chairman. He held this position until his death. On several occasions he took part in national movements and contacted many of the leaders of our nation.

An editorial in the Kansas City Star pays a well-deserved tribute



to Dr. Pihlblad. It is fitting to let this editorial speak at this time. "The very highest and best contributions in welding an important immigrant minority into a valuable, integral, and yet splendidly distinctive part of the American nation, were those of Dr. Ernst F. Pihlblad, who died at Topeka Thursday.

"The son of Swedish immigrant parents, he began life in Kansas City, but his entire mature career was devoted to his people. He was the long-time president of Bethany college, Lindsborg, Kansas, and perhaps there is no person of Swedish blood who has had as great or as lasting influence on that people in this country. It was Dr. Pihlblad's lifelong belief that everyone residing in America should first of all, become a good American in every sense of the word; and, second, that it was his duty to make what contributions he could to the general enrichment and betterment of American life.

"To that end he continuously fostered Swedish musical, artistic, and literary talent, preserved Swedish folklore, and made of his community a mecca for lovers of the beautiful during the annual Messiah festival which made Lindsborg so famous.

"Yet he preached the duties and honors of citizenship and set the example himself. He died in the harness attending a meeting of the State Merit System Board, discharging his duties to his commonwealth. It was a high and fitting honor when, some years ago, he was decorated with knighthood by the Swedish government for his educational services for his people.

"But it can and should be said here that Dr. Pihlblad was, as he taught, an American first, a Kansas second, and a personage of Swedish blood, third, in the category of importance."

Dr. Pihlblad was an able and powerful speaker. He was called on to address small groups as well as mass meetings. Every year he was invited to deliver baccalaureate sermons and commencement addresses. He was a lover of music and art. The world-famous "Messiah" Chorus found in him a staunch supporter, and he served for many years as President of the Bethany Oratorio Society. It is indeed fitting that this Chorus will sing selections from Handel's "Messiah" at this service.

Above all, Dr. Pihlblad was a servant of Christ and His Church. Although his talents and efforts were mainly devoted to teaching, nevertheless he retained his interest in the ministry and pastoral service. This was one reason why he served as pastor of the Falun congregation for many years. He loved his people and his pulpit.

Dr. Pihlblad was blessed with good health. However, a severe automobile accident left both Dr. and Mrs. Pihlblad with injuries from which they never fully recovered. It was the indirect cause of Mrs. Pihlblad's death three years ago. Dr. Pihlblad hovered between life and death for several weeks, and only after several months was he able to move about. He often remarked, "If only I could walk better, everything would be all right." However, it took a great deal of per-





**Dr. Julius Lincoln, Governor Payne Ratner  
of Kansas and Dr. Pihlblad.**



suasion to keep him from traveling far and wide in the interest of Bethany College. But he did realize that his strength was failing. In the capitol city of Topeka, on the 25th day of April, 1941, the well known educator informed the Kansas Conference that after 37 years he felt he had completed his calling as President of Bethany college. It was an impressive moment when one of the ablest educators and administrators relinquished the helm by which he and the institution had played such an important role in Church and State.

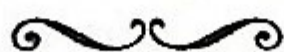
Thursday, December 9th, Dr. Pihlblad attended a meeting of the State Merit Board at Topeka, Kansas. He visited with Governor Schoeppel during the morning, discussing affairs of the Board. He attended the regular meeting of the Rotary club at noon, but left early, because he said, "I am a little tired and believe I'll lie down a bit". It was at the afternoon session of the Board when a heart attack came. He was taken to a hospital where he departed this life peacefully at the age of 70 years.

Dr. Pihlblad is survived by two sons, both in educational work. They are Dr. Terence Pihlblad, long chairman of the Department of Sociology at the University of Missouri, now with the OPA; and Lt. Helge E. Pihlblad, formerly Superintendent of Schools at Garfield, Kansas, and now an Army officer stationed at Houston, Texas; two daughters-in-law; and four grandchildren, Marie and Helen, Margaret and Leslie.

At this time there looms before the Bethany family, two illustrious figures: Dr. Carl Swensson, the founder, who stands in the Bethany background, and only a few of us taking part in this service can feel his personal touch. Fresh upon the horizon stands Dr. Ernst Pihlblad's figure. With a pull on our heart strings, and a tender touch of our hands, we shall, in a few moments, unite in committing the remains of our beloved friend, our esteemed teacher, and our consecrated leader to the rest and peace of Mother Earth. But this we know, that his noble soul by grace and grace alone has entered into the inexpressible peace, joy, and glory of the children of God, which is begun on earth and made perfect in Heaven. Peace on Dr. Pihlblad's memory.

DR. VICTOR SPONG.

*(Bethany '10, President, Kansas Conference, Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri.)*



## The Service

Funeral services were held in Presser Hall at 2:30 p. m. on the Bethany campus on Monday, December 13, 1943 for Dr. Ernst F. Pihlblad, who passed away on Thursday, December 9, while attending