

Warren Nelson

Becomer's Mystery Person of the week - October 15, 2011

Born in Duluth Minnesota, Sept 2, 1923

Parent Dad born in Sweden and came to America when 14 years old. Mother born of Swedish parents in Ironwood, Mich

Siblings One older brother, died when seven years old from Meningitis. 2 younger brothers, both living in the Midwest now. Many relatives in Minnesota and Michigan originally, now all thru the country.

Strong Influence Taken to local church when an infant and grew up in the environment. Attended Sunday School, youth activities. Welcomed Jesus into my life about 12 years of age. Later taught Sunday School, sang in choir, participated in sports...church had a soft ball team.

Education Duluth had very good schools. Was in the school boys police activities (guarded cross walks) Became Lieutenant. Was elected as Student Council president in 9th grade. As such MCed the Friday assemblies: introduced speakers, made announcements, etc.

Industrial Arts teacher took personal interest in me. Guided me into mechanical and architectural drawing. Helped me get a job with local American Steel & Wire Co. a subsidiary of U.S. Steel). After graduating from H.S., worked in drafting dept until joining the Navy.

Early work Experience Had several jobs while in high school: local bakery and local grocery store & meat market.

U.S. Service Days. Spent a year in the Seabees (U. S. Navy Construction Battalion.) Assigned to Port Hueneme, Ca. While there, took test to get into officer's training. Passed, was selected and assigned to U.C Berkeley. Enjoyed 2 full years there. Sang in Glee Club, played Jr. Varsity Football and selected architecture as my major. The war ended, my duty time was up. Went home to Minnesota. Entered University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Also joined the Naval Reserve— inactive.

Back to civilian life. My father died (55 years old). So I went home to Duluth to the family.

Transferred to the branch university. After testing for interest and aptitudes, changed majors. 2 years later graduated with social studies major in 1949 with B.S. Degree and a teaching credential.

After soul searching I felt led to enter seminary...North Park College & Seminary in Chicago. This meant 3 more years, plus a year of intemship. The Korean War was going on, so I got called but accepted probationary commission as a naval chaplain. This allowed me to continue my education.

In my last year of seminary, I married Joan, a young nurse also from our home church. We had gotten engaged some years earlier. Upon graduation I resigned my probationary commission in the Navy, choosing the church ministry instead. We served 3 churches (1) Alexandria, Minn, (2) Portage, Ind and (3) Orange, Ca...20 years total. During the first ten years, 5 children were born to us. These were good years of personal growth and development

Further ministry In the early 1970s I began working with Wycliffe Associates - lay division of Wycliffe Bible Translators. I spent 7 years with them raising \$\$ and friends for this significant ministry of reaching people in third-world countries. Some rewarding experiences I had with Wycliffe Associates. (1) Met Wm Cameron Townsend, founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators.

(2) Met & prayed with both Brother Andrew (God's Smuggler) and Corrie Ten Boom.. (3) Met converted tribal leader of Auca Indians who killed 5 missionaries in Ecuador.

Then I was invited to work with a group called Living Opportunities Management Company (LOMCO) which built and managed apartment complexes for low income seniors in connection with HUD (Housing & Urban Development) This was a very rewarding position and I continued with them for 18 years. Most of that time I was administrator of Community Garden Tower & Garden Tower West, both sponsored by the Crystal Cathedral.

In the late 1970's we began attending the Crystal Cathedral and became members in the early 1980s. Both Joan and I got involved in voluntary ministry: Evening Chorale, tour guiding, teaching LMTC, New Hope. Also active in Homebuilders.

Good to have support thru the church and others when I experienced surgeries...Quintuple Bypass, Prostatectomy for Cancer, Hernias. Joined a small group in the 80s and am still in that fellowship today.

In Aug of 1996 tragedy struck our family. Joan had a blood clot, which lodged in her lung. She died about 2 hours later in the Emergency Room in the very hospital, Western Medical Center in S.A), where she had worked for over 30 years, primarily in the neonatal unit.

In due time God provided another faithful wife and partner, Carolyn Tone. She has a similar experience. Ed Tone had died suddenly a few years earlier. Recently we celebrated 14 wonderful years of marriage. Together we have 17 grand children - Three have finished college and are working. one will soon be discharged from the Army. Six more are in college The others are in high school or in lower grades. One granddaughter just got married. I participated in the wedding. All of my children are married and have established good homes. My privilege to participate in their weddings. Great kids, all active in church. Doing well in their relationships, work and circles of influence.

Other items of interest.

I have been in 3 different prisons (as a visitor). (1) Stillwater, Minnesota when attending a state sponsored conference of Jr. High leaders. (2) Uncle by marriage in charge of the prison laundry took me into Atascadero prison. (3) Same uncle took me into Chino. All a bit scary but educational.

Had a number of traffic tickets (started when I was in Seminary). Parking illegally, speeding. As a pastor going too slow in fast lane (speedometer not accurate)

Good things I experienced

Made a hole -in-one at local golf course May 4, 1967. Have a trophy.

On one of our trips to Washington D.C., 1958, we attended a Presbyterian Church on a Sunday morning and lo & behold President Dwight Eisenhower came in and sat several rows ahead of us. The pastor preached on "Be Angry & Sin Not". Very moving.

Four trips to Europe... visited at least a dozen countries - very valued & treasured experiences.

(a) stood in home where my father lived in Sweden. Conversated with present owner in Swedish (took two years of this language in High School). Visited church place where he was baptized.

(b) Spent a day at the Hour of Power Headquarters in Holland.

(c) Visited Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on a Sunday morning - worship service had just begun. A long time dream of mine.

Have been to Canada, Hawaii & Mexico (with Wycliffe primitive areas).

In conclusion Currently I am minister of the Day on Mondays. Also enjoy gardening as a volunteer. It helps one to be creative and to be close to God.

Great quote in closing "Let's find joy in the simple gifts of God. Celebrate God's provisions each day, beginning and ending with the special joy that comes from knowing Christ"

Chic Broersma, Words of Hope devotional booklet.