

Julius E. Karl  
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### Autobiography

On the fifth day of April 1931, I was born as the only son and third child into the family of Julian and Karoline Karl. The residence of my parents at the time of my birth was Pinino, about hundred miles south-east of Danzig, West Prussia.

My parents are German. My father was the son of a family of seven children and my mother a daughter of a family of nine. Both received only elementary education. In 1921 still before they were married, they became acquainted with the message of the Church of God, experienced conversion, and left the Lutheran Church to follow their newly won convictions of a holy life and the Church of God, the body of Christ. Shortly after this change in their lives, they married and lived happily until 1942 when my father was drafted to the Wehrmacht (German Army) from which he never returned.

Due to the instability of the times, my education prior coming to college was rather poor. The war interrupted the continuity of public school education. The last class session ended approximately in August 1944. During the chaotic years of 1945 - 1948 following the capitulation of Germany, I had

no opportunity to make up for the loss. After failing to pass the examination to enroll in the Gimnasium, I accepted a position as apprentice with a furniture manufacturing firm. I successfully concluded a three-years service in April 1951 and received a certificate as cabinet maker. In the following years, from 1951 - 1962 I attended various night schools such as the Volkshochschule in Germany and Central Secondary School in Hamilton, Ontario.

The hopeless years immediately after the war caused many people to leave Germany. My mother with my three sisters and I also decided to leave. We immigrated in Canada on Dec. 24, 1953, making Hamilton our permanent home.

The most important experience in my life regarding my vocational objective is my conversion. It is very real to me. I found peace - real lasting peace for my soul. I felt that all my needs were met. That for which I unconsciously searched, I had finally found. My system of values changed: What seemed of importance before had lost its value. My self-centred life became Christ-centred. Never have I found peace through pleasing my ego, but I always found satisfaction by losing myself in a cause that served the Lord and humanity. I would like to communicate this experience to as many people as possible, for without being born again man misses the most important opportunity of his existence. The Christian ministry provides a challenge to serve, a channel for influence, and an opportunity for the most meaningful investment of my life.

The second most important experience is my college career. "All things flow," said Heraclitus nearly twenty-five hundred years ago. This is still true today. The brief two years and nine month of my undergraduate studies have come to a successful conclusion. What do they mean to me? Since to live means to grow, to change, to adjust, this brief time was for me not a state of being, but a dynamic becoming. The exposure to new facts and ideas leaves a definite impression on my life. I have extended my understanding; I have become more free to express my emotions, ideas, thoughts, and hidden impulses. I have learned to "know" myself better, to "accept" myself more positively, and to "be" myself as much as possible. Education created in me a stronger awareness of the grandeur and complexity of the world, and it also reminded me again and again of my limited ability to perceive it in its totality. Therefore, I believe that I can relate myself more appropriately to my fellow men as well as to the universe in general.