

Autobiography
Lennart John Holmquist

I. Personal History and Aspirations

Family background, marital status, occupation, employment or business experience (kinds and dates), educational history, travel experience, special interests, vocational, educational, and professional objectives, reasons for desiring to study in Israel.

My father graduated Wheaton College with a B.A. in psychology and from Bethel Seminary with a B.D. in church history and has acquired since then a M.A. in educational administration. He has served as a chaplain in the navy, a high school teacher, and is now a counselor in a high school. He also served for a time as a chairman of the board of deacons. His father and grandfather were also active in church activities. Both served as deacons in a large church in Chicago, for many years, my great grandfather for over 25 years. My mother is a registered nurse at Santa Paula Memorial Hospital. By birth she is a Swede. Her background is rather interesting for she was born and raised as her father was in mainland China. She speaks Chinese, Swedish, and English fluently. She also knows a good deal of German since she went to nurse's training in a German hospital in Shantung Province. Her grandfather before the turn of the century dedicated his life for missionary service to China of the suggestion of a lecturer in Sweden. This individual was J. Hudson Taylor founder of China Inland Missions. My grandfather Rev. Oscar Rinell was born in China. He lived as a missionary in China including his childhood for 50 years. The Communist Chinese held him under arrest for several months in 1950. Upon his release and after a stay in Sweden, he continued his mission work in Japan where he founded a church and taught throughout his ten years in Japan in the Kobe University. He then retired with his wife to Sweden but after a short while went back to Korea where he has been the last two years in charge of several orphanages. He will retire a second time at age 76 to Sweden in a few months.

I have managed to get through college without getting married and presently do not have any future prospects. The last four years I have been attending college. Two years were spent at Ventura College majoring in liberal arts and two

years at Westmont College majoring in ~~Biblical studies~~ with emphasis in history. The last two summers I have worked as a park aid in the maintenance division at a California State Park (June through September of 1970 and 1971). This summer I am a park aid in visitor services. My duties include collection of money and public relations. I am up for promotion to ranger status within the next few weeks in which my duties will be public relations and law enforcement. I have also worked during the school sessions at Westmont in 1971 ~~and~~ 1972 as a lab assistant in biology and also as a life guard at the Westmont pool.

Most of my life has been spent in California. However, as a boy my family and I visited my grandparents for a month in Japan. ~~Afterwards~~ we spent two years in Nationalist China where my father was a chaplain. Last fall I spent the school semester with 46 other students touring Europe through Westmont's study abroad program and it was at this time I became acquainted with the institute.

I have the curse and blessing of having a great many interests. The blessing is I enjoy studying a great many subjects and the curse that I have so little time to devote to any one subject. My major interest is of course Bible. Other interests include: ancient and modern history (eastern and western), religions of the world, oriental and western art, oceanography (I am a certified diver), biology, mineralogy, zoology, and photography.

After completing four years of college I am acutely aware of how little I know. Realizing that I can not learn all my interests well, I wish to obtain a good background in one major field. This field would naturally be for me Bible. I am most interested in it; I feel there is always a need for individuals well versed in ^{es} Bible; And I believe the Lord is leading me in this direction. My objective is to acquire a M.A. probably in Old Testament and a minors in New Testament. I believe the Lord is directing me toward teaching but as of yet I am not certain. I do not wish to teach unless I could be a good teacher and for this I need a good background in my field. The American Institute of Holy Land Studies could contribute a great deal toward this background and this goal. I was impressed with the

facilities, the classes offered and the location while in Israel. Talking to a few friends that attended the institute (such as Bob Barrows), I was impressed with their enthusiasm for the institute. I would very much like to be a part of it.