

## Donald Brye '49

I was born in the year 1925...into a good family that believed in the Lutheran faith...actually the Norwegian faith. My parents were definitely kind and responsible. I can look back on the numerous years that have transpired and consider my answer to the important question..."What do I believe?"

It seems clear to me that both what I was taught and what I experienced in addition to what I learned in school had a lot to do with shaping my thoughts, memories, attitudes, etc. regarding life in general. It is also clear, I think, that being born in a great country like the United States, coming from a good Christian family and being educated at an outstanding college like St. Olaf are things that I value greatly and should be grateful for.

As a veteran of World War II...drafted into military service in the fall of 1943...I participated in a great global war...a war that many people thought would be the end to all wars. Unfortunately, this was not to be. I spent 2+ years in the U.S. Navy...1 year on board ship in the Pacific and another year at the Univ. of Idaho (V-12, NROTC Program).

When the wars ended (May 8, 1945 in Europe and August 13, 1945 in the Pacific) I returned to St. Olaf College in the fall of 1946...subsequently graduating in 1949. The next 51 years were spent in Education in Wisconsin...teaching in the Tomahawk Public Schools, the Milwaukee Public Schools and, finally, in the Milwaukee Area Technical College (15 yrs. part-time). On March 24, 1951, I was married to a lady from Tomahawk. In May (1975), an unexpected divorce occurred. There were 3 fine children from the marriage...a son, who with his wife (and their 2 young daughters) work for the Wycliffe Bible Translator Program in Cameroon (AFRICA). The oldest daughter is married and works as a nurse in the Milwaukee area. The youngest daughter, recently married, is a homemaker in Juneau, Wisconsin. She and her husband have a son, who is 22 months old.

I believe that the information presented about my life, perhaps seeming uninteresting and unimportant, have contributed to the shaping of my beliefs, attitudes, etc. regarding human life on our earth.

As a Believer in the Christian Faith...one who who believes that Jesus Christ is his Lord and Savior...I also have become more conscious and thoughtful about the responsibilities that we human beings should have during our stay on earth.

We Christians, and also all other people, regardless of their religious beliefs, should make a concerted effort to keep in excellent moral, mental and physical health with the end to leading positive, useful lives...and also hopefully at some time to making valuable contributions to society...bringing HONOR and RECOGNITION to our families, friends and to our country.

Also, early in life...very early, if possible...people should try to fully understand that for each action (mental or physical) that the commit there will always be a corresponding result or consequence. As intelligent, responsible citizens, we should do all that we can to develop ourselves into individuals having a character possessing noble qualities, and that we are law-abiding and clean living.

After graduating from St. Olaf College in 1949, I happened to write to and ask President Clemens M. Granskou of St. Olaf College (1895-1974) about a statement he

had made in his home to some of us 1949 graduates. President Granskou graciously answered my inquiry with a detailed, hand-written letter. In his letter he explained that Christianity is the only religion that offers a believer forgiveness for his sins...he also quoted Lord (Alfred) Tennyson (English poet:1809-1892), who said that "There is more Faith in Honest Doubt than all the Creeds."