

**Cyril Spaude:
A Man with a Heart for Worker Training**

**A Video Interview
Church History 331
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Cyril Spaude: A Man with a Heart for Worker Training

On April 19, 1997 I had the privilege and pleasure of interviewing retired Professor Cyril Spaude. My goal in this interview was to find out Professor Spaude's impact on and opinions about worker training. I learned a lot from this interview, but I learned even more during the two hours after the formal interview as I enjoyed coffee and conversation with Professor Spaude at his kitchen table. This table talk just served to put an exclamation on what I learned in the interview: Professor Spaude is a man with a heart for worker training. This is brought out very clearly in the interview but it is also highlighted by other men who were glad to take the time to tell me a little bit about Professor Spaude.

Professor Armin Panning knows Professor Spaude quite well. During high school they roomed together for a year. The two also spent a year together at WLS. Panning made the comment that Professor Spaude was always interested in anything and everything. He related how Professor Spaude cut everyone's hair, could fix anything and got along well with everybody. Panning, who as Seminary president was able to work with the students Spaude trained, pointed out that this personableness and wide range of interests transferred well to the classroom. It helped Professor Spaude relate to the individual. Professor Panning also mentioned that Professor Spaude's stress on the fundamentals of Greek and Hebrew had a profound effect on his students who later entered the Seminary. These men were well prepared and ready to work in the original languages of the Bible. Many of them were so prepared because Professor Spaude spent

time with them on an individual basis.

Professor Daniel Deutschlander, Professor Spaude's colleague at Northwestern for several years, agrees. In a phone interview he reiterated everything that Professor Panning said and added some points of his own. Professor Deutschlander gave credit for the formation of the Seminary Certification Program to Professor Spaude saying that he was the one who saw the need and got the ball rolling. He also brought out another aspect of Professor Spaude's heart for worker training. He said that Professor Spaude would not give up on an individual who was struggling with languages even "after he probably should have." At least that is how it seemed at the time. Professor Spaude's pastoral heart, a heart filled with love for the Lord and an eagerness to train men to preach his gospel, would not allow him to give up on a student. Instead Professor Spaude would go out of his way to get each student to work with the gifts with which he had been blessed. Certainly there are men in the ministry now who would not be there were it not for Professor Spaude's "stubbornness." Professor Deutschlander noted one shining example of this "stubbornness": Pastor Loren Steele.

When I contacted Pastor Steele by phone and explained to him the reason I was calling he said, "I'm sitting here in the church office because of Cyril Spaude." Pastor Steele's story is unique. Professor Spaude relates this story on the video-taped interview so I will not go into detail here. But I think you will agree that Pastor Steele's story illustrates the fact that Professor Spaude has a heart for worker training.

There is one portion of the interview that I will note briefly here. Toward the end of the interview I asked Professor Spaude about the recent amalgamation of DMLC and NWC. You will notice that he speaks rather guardedly about the subject. But you will also notice the care

and concern he has for worker training in the WELS. It is obvious that the issues involved at the time when our synod was deliberating about the worker training system were very close to Professor Spaude's heart. In the interview he expresses his concerns then and now and makes very clear his greatest fear, that the integrity of the pastoral track would be damaged. Professor Spaude worked very hard to make sure that this fear would not come true. And he still prays and works for our present worker training system to make sure it never does.

As you watch the interview I think you will be interested, amused and edified. Professor Spaude is truly and interesting character with a lot to share. He is funny, upbeat and positive. He is a wonderful story teller. His life experience is vast and his devotion to the Lord is commendable. His impact on worker training and workers in the WELS is profound.

Any young MLC student, any seminarian, even pastors and professors who have spent many years serving the Lord's church cannot help but be built up by professor Spaude's humility and wisdom. When I left his home I not only knew more than I did when I went there but I was built up and encouraged for ministry in a way I have never been before. Professor Spaude's words truly energized me in my desire for pastoral ministry. As you can see, Pastor Spaude still has a heart devoted to training workers for the Church. To God alone be the glory!

Sources

Deutschlander, Daniel M. Phone interview conducted on April 8, 1997.

Panning, Armin J. Personal interview at WLS, March 12, 1997.

Spaude, Cyril W. Personal interview at his home in Watertown, WI, April 19, 1997.

Spaude, Cyril W. "The Emphasis on Foreign Language Study at Northwestern College." Essay prepared for The Foreign Language Department Conference held at Northwestern College, Watertown, WI, June 3 and 4, 1982.

Steele, Loren. Phone interview conducted on April 28, 1997.

Appendix: Biographical Information for Cyril Spaude

1. Family Background and Childhood

Date and place of Birth: February 6, 1930, Lake Benton, MN

Parents: Rev. Dr. Paul W. Spaude, Helen (Bade) Spaude

Parents Occupations: Father - pastor for 45 years, church historian

Mother - homemaker, church organist for 30 years

Siblings: Rev. Luther O. Spaude - WLS '46, Prof at MLS, Wisco, WLC (retired)

Rev. Milton P. Spaude - WLS '52, Pastor in MI, Prof at MLS (retired)

Rev. Jerome Spaued - WLS '54, Pastor in MT and MI, Prof at MLS (retired)

Victoria Ulrich - parochial school teacher (retired)

Virginia Backer - parochial school teacher (retired)

Marie Sazy - parochial school teacher at St. John's, Westland, MI

2. Education

Elementary School: Public School, Lake Benton, MN (1-8)

High School: High School Dept. Of former DMLC, class of '48

Activities: band (4), concert choir (2), basketball (4), piano (3), intramurals (4)

College: Northwestern College, Watertown, WI, class of '52

Activities: band (4), chorus (4), basketball (1), football manager (4), male octet (3), Black and Red (4), intramurals (4), Greek tutor (3), Hebrew tutor (1)

Jobs: school barber (4), lawn work

Seminary: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI, class of '57

N.B.: Attended WLS '52-'54, tutor at NLA, Mobridge, S.D., '54-'56
While tutor taught Latin, Religion, Physical Education and was
athletic director, coach, canteen manager and dorm supervisor.

Activities: chorus (3), basketball (2), *Fehrnsehersapparat Wieder Herstellungs
Arbeiter* (TV repairman for the Sem's first two Tvs)

Jobs: school barber (3), estate work

Further education: Graduate School, UW-Madison - Greek and Hebrew
UW-Madison - Audio-Visual courses
Summer Quarter - WLS, Mequon

3. Marriage and Family

Wife: Adela Lois Eckert (daughter of Rev. Otto Eckert, former pastor of St. Paul's,
Saginaw, MI)

Where they met: choir tour

Where married: St. Paul's, Saginaw, MI

When: August 28, 1957

Minister: Rev. Otto Eckert

Children: 1. Margaret Marggrof - wife of Rev. Paul Marggroff, teacher

2. Lois McKinney - wife of Rev. Bruce McKinney, teacher

3. Martin Spaude - pastor

4. Susan Schone - wife of Rev. Jeffrey Schone, teacher

5. Eileen Smith - wife of Rev. Robert Smith, housewife

6. Joel Spaude - missionary

7. David Spaude - forestry management

8. Timothy Spaude - pastor

4. Service

Congregations: Trinity, Aberdeen, S.D., 1957-1966

Schools: Tutor, Northwestern Lutheran Academy, Mobridge, S.D., 1954-1956

Northwestern College, 1966-1995

Soli Deo Gloria!