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Church History
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5/9/1995

Prof. Ernst H. Wendland:
A Video Interview

Professor Ernst H. Wendland graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1941. As he began his ministry as a tutor at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw he could not have known the great plans that the Lord had in mind for his ministry. His ministry would see him through our Synod's split with the Missouri Synod. It would take him thousands of miles from home to the continent of Africa. He would also serve his Lord as a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary training men to join him in the Lord's work of gathering souls for the heavenly kingdom. We praise our God for the many years of varied service that he has given us through his servant Ernst H. Wendland.

It was with these thoughts in mind that I arrived at Prof. Wendland's home near Two Rivers, Wisconsin to interview him about his many years of ministry. It was the second of May, 1995. As he gave me a tour of his home it became quite clear that of the many places he had served, Zambia, Africa held a special place in his heart. His house was filled with many mementos and pictures of his years in Africa. As I spoke with him it did not take long to realize that he considered this work in Africa to be the highlight of the work the Lord had allowed him to do.

Prof. Wendland graduated from the Seminary in 1941 and first went to Saginaw to serve as a tutor for Michigan Lutheran Seminary. From there he went to a parish in Washington, Iowa. He also served

in Janesville, Wisconsin before returning to Michigan as a pastor in Benton Harbor. While he was a pastor here he was asked to present a paper to the Synodical Conference at its 1956 meeting in Detroit. His paper, "The Inadequacy of the Common Confession as a Settlement of Differences," addressed some of the differences that existed between the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods. It was during his service in Benton Harbor when he began his involvement with World Missions. He served on the Board for World Missions and in 1962 when they needed a man to start a Bible Institute and Seminary in Zambia he accepted the call.

He began the Bible Institute in 1962 and the first class graduated from the Seminary there in 1972. Salimo Hachibamba, who now heads the Seminary there was a graduate of this first class. He served sixteen years in Africa before returning to the United States after accepting a call to serve as a Professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He served there until his retirement in 1988. His public ministry was not over, however. That same year he received a five year call to return to the Seminary in Zambia where he resumed teaching. He taught under the new head of the Seminary, one of his first students, Salimo Hachibamba. He returned to the U.S. in 1993 and now lives in his home near Two Rivers where he is waiting for the next call the Lord would like him to accept.

Professor Wendland has never lost the love for mission work that he gained while in Africa. It has affected his whole life ever since. He will be the first to tell you that it was the best thing that could have happened to him. We can praise our Lord for giving our Synod a man who has done so much for God's Church both here and in Africa.