

Dannevirke letter from Pastor P. Rasmussen, Sæby, Denmark.

The first time one comes to America there are always lots of things one wonders about. There are many things that are overwhelming when one comes from a small country like Denmark. Time and time again you stand before something that is “the biggest in the world”.

It was an interesting experience to be allowed to visit half of the Danish-American Baptist congregations that belongs to the Danish Baptist General Conference of America; most of them are in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Through services in the churches and visits in homes I had the opportunity to meet many of Danish background – whose acquaintances I also knew in Denmark, and I was given greetings to bring back to them.

My main objective in America was to participate as the Danish Baptists’ representative at the 8th world Congress in Cleveland, Ohio. It was the third world congress like that in which I have participated and it was also the biggest. The biggest and most burning questions of all times were discussed by some of the most competent Baptists – each in his own area of knowledge. But of course the main objective was to find out which mission undertakings are done by the Baptists at this time. The mission problems at home and abroad were discussed; the monumental aid work after the war by which the Baptists all over the world have helped each other will be continued.

At the conclusion of my America visit here was the Danish-American Conference in Harlan, Iowa. Here I met the congregational representatives for discussion about their mission at home as well as in the mission fields. An invitation from the Danish Baptists that was extended to send one of the top Danish-American pastors to Denmark for three months in the fall of 1951 was received with thanks.

Pastor A. C. Swenson, Clarks Grove, Minnesota was chosen for the trip. Pastor Swenson is also chairman of the Danish-American Heathen-mission Committee. The Danish Conference in America supports the Danish Baptists’ mission in Central Africa.

It was of course a nice experience to visit my wife’s two sisters and their families in Cedar Falls where I spent a little more than two weeks. At the same time I met publisher August L. Bang who does a praise-worthy and unselfish work in promoting the Danish voice further through “Dannevirke”. Bang’s idealism and Danish-ness is admirable. Sad to say there are only a few who understand his efforts.

And what do you think about America, I was asked from all sides. What I saw and experienced in the two months my visit lasted I got to appreciate and to like America even more than I would have thought before I left. America has a big influence and big possibilities and we will ask God to help utilizing it.

P. Rasmussen, Sæby, Denmark.