



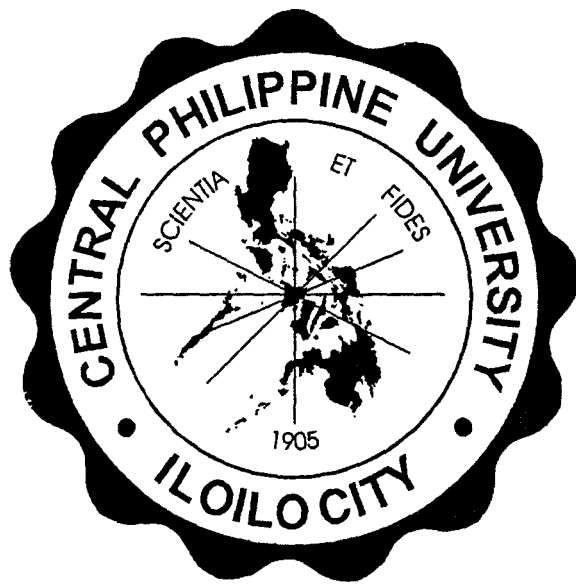
Eric Lund

Apostle to the Philippines

NELSON and SKOGLUND



Central Philippine University
Iloilo City, Philippines



The Central Philippine University SEAL
designed by Dr. Francis H. Rose, with the motto
Scientia et Fides – knowledge and faith.

Eric Lund

Apostle to the Philippines

Linnea A. Nelson

John E. Skoglund

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*To Mac and Jo Ruiz
true friends and beloved
colleagues*

PREFACE

My sister-in-law Linnea Nelson spent nineteen years at Central Philippine University. A few months before her death she handed me a small black briefcase. I opened it. It was filled with papers. I said, "What is it?" She replied, "It's a biography of Eric Lund, the first Baptist missionary to the Philippines. I have taken him from his birth in Sweden to his arrival in the Philippines at the age of 48. But I cannot finish it. My eyes are failing. I can no longer see to read or write. Will you finish it?"

I took the papers home and went through them. I did not at that time feel able to undertake the task. Besides even if I finished the writing who would publish it? After Linnea's death I sent an e-mail to Central Philippine University informing the administration that she had died and that she had left behind the unfinished biography of Eric Lund. I offered to send it to them. Possibly someone there would be willing to finish and publish it. Within hours a message came back saying that the Philippine Baptists and others were to have in May 2000 a centennial celebration to observe the one-hundredth anniversary of Lund's arrival in the Philippines in May 1900 and they would like to have the Lund book available for the celebration. They asked me if I would be willing to finish the manuscript by January 1, 2000. I agreed.

As I read Linnea's materials I remembered an incident from my childhood. The Baptists of Southern California were to hold their annual convention in our town. The church of which we were members was the host church. Two Swedish ministers were coming and because my parents were Swedish they were asked to entertain them. One of them fascinated me greatly. He was almost totally bald. To cover his baldness and possibly keep his head warm he wore a decorated skullcap. I had never seen anyone wear such a thing before. Besides I was completely captivated by his stories of travels in many parts of the world and especially of life in the Philippines. The other man I did not pay much attention to and I should have. The one with the skullcap was Eric Lund. The other was F. O. Nelson, a missionary and church organizer among the Scandinavians of the West Coast. In 1934 I married his daughter Daisy and he would have become my father-in-law. But by then he was no longer living.

I wish Linnea were here to see the completion of her project. She felt a strong linkage to Eric Lund who had given so much to the beginnings of the Philippine mission. Her first love was China where she spent the early years of her missionary career. Her second love was the Philippines and the Filipino people and especially the students to whom she gave a large measure of her devotion, skill and understanding. From them she received

a warm response and an enduring friendship which she cherished until her death. That can be seen in the number of babies that were named either Linnea or Nelson. My sister-in-law Lillian Larson was traveling by ship from Athens to Alexandria. One evening some of the crew members put on a concert. After the end of the program Lillian went up to congratulate them on their singing. One of them wore a name tag which said "Nelson." She was interested for that was her maiden name. She asked him where he was from. He said, "The Philippines." "Oh," she said, "I have a sister who was for many years a missionary in Iloilo." As he danced around her he shouted, "Dr. Nelson. She is the one whose name I bear. I was named after Dr. Linnea Nelson."

My first contact with the Central Philippines came in the early months of 1947 when I was sent out by the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society on a ministry of "fellowship and reconciliation." I spoke in schools, colleges and seminaries to thousands of students and their teachers. To me it was one of the most enriching experiences of my life. I was drawn into a life-long commitment to missions that has brought great joy to me and warm and lasting friendships. For this I owe a debt of gratitude to Philippine Baptists.

My task has been to review and revise Linnea's manuscript and to write Lund's story from the time of his arrival in the Philippines in 1900 to his death in 1933.

A special "thank you" to Daisy, my wife, who read and corrected the manuscript and to our daughter Gabrielle Mauerman for shepherding me through the intricacies of computer operation.

John E. Skoglund

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INTRODUCTION

William Carey, Adoniram Judson and Eric Lund stand out as the premier pioneer Baptist missionaries of the Nineteenth Century. They had much in common. They were the first to be appointed by their national denominations to overseas service, Carey by the British Baptist Mission Society, Judson by the American Baptist Missionary Union and Lund by the Swedish Baptist Union.

All these were highly gifted in the learning and use of languages other than their own. All translated the Bible into the language of the place to which they went, Carey into Bengali, Judson into Burmese and Lund into Panayan. All were instrumental in establishing an educational channel which ultimately resulted in three universities, Serampore University in India, Judson College, affiliated with the University of Rangoon and Central Philippine University in Panay. They all secured printing presses and established publishing houses. Each faced great danger in the areas to which they were sent. Carey was not allowed to settle in India by the East India Company but was forced to begin his mission in the tiny Danish enclave of Serampore. Judson was imprisoned under intolerable conditions for a long period of time. Lund was arrested and jailed in Spain where he first went and in constant danger in the Philippines from civil war and from attacks by those who opposed Protestant missions.

The appointment of the three brought about the formation of mission societies to support them and their mission. The Baptist Mission Society of Great Britain resulted from Carey's appointment. The American Baptist Missionary Union was the result of Judson going to Burma and Eric Lund's appointment to Spain resulted in the formation of the Swedish Baptist missionary organization.

Of the three Eric Lund is the least known outside of Sweden his native land. There he is honored by the Baptists as the pioneer, the one who began what has become a worldwide movement for missions. The Swedish Baptists chose Spain as their first mission field and Eric Lund as their first missionary. The choice of Lund to go to Spain was largely because he already had been in Spain and knew the language. It was from Spain that the American Baptists appointed him. He was a Swedish Baptist under American Baptist appointment. He became the first American Baptist missionary to the Philippines.