

Augustana College
Chapel of Reconciliation

Michael Stutelberg

8 Jan 2010

John 1: 10-18

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the father's heart, who has made him known.

Good morning! It is my pleasure to be the first senior speaker of 2010. I would also like to welcome you on this beautiful South Dakota winter day. It is still hard to believe that this is my fourth year and that I will be done in May. It feels like yesterday that I was a frosh wondering aimlessly around the chemistry department dazed and confused. So, I am also supposed to talk about what I have learned while at Augustana. Here's one, I am uncertain about quantum mechanics. But this is not my focus today, my focus is on the scripture and what it means to me.

The last week of December, I spent at a Christian conference in Minneapolis, called TCX. This is important for me to start with, because as I was preparing to write this sermon over Christmas break, I realized I had no idea what to talk about.

Before the conference it is fair to say, that I was struggling with my faith this last semester, I was not growing in my relationship with God, but falling away. TCX, helped

me to become closer to Christ, and figure out what I was going to talk about today, John 1: 10-18. This is something that has been on my heart for along time.

Looking into the first two verses, God came into our world and he became man! His own people did not know him. His own people still do not know him. This brings to mind, a mission trip experience I had while in Ghana during my sophomore year. In Ghana with a population about 20 million, 60 % call themselves Christian. Of that, only about ten percent know that if they die today that they are certain they would go to heaven. So it was a great experience when one of my teammates Ben, our mission leader, and myself went to a guy's dorm at the University of Cape Coast. We walked about the building for awhile until we saw two students sitting on a retaining wall. What was so remarkable was that from talking to the students on the wall, other Ghanaian students flocked to us. They wanted to talk to us white people to us Americans, and would share anything. We talked from religion, to the candidates in the presidential race, to the climate. And my favorite question, if our body temperature is lower than 37 Celsius because of the climate we live in.

It was so different to anything that I had experienced before, random strangers willing to have a conversation on touchy subjects without an argument forming. We estimated afterwards that there must have been at least 40 students we talked to and shared the gospel with.

From the experience in Ghana, I definitely felt as if the word was with me along with grace and truth. I looked up Grace on dictionary.com and found some synonyms I felt fit with this sermon, **mercy; clemency; pardon**. These synonyms mean a lot for me. For example when I do not make smart decisions and stray from God I know that

I can be granted mercy, clemency, or be pardoned. Especially, since I have done some stupid things in my time. And it is always relieving that God will give me mercy, clemency, and pardon.

With Truth, I did the same at dictionary.com: 1. fact. 2. veracity. 7. honesty. How awesome is it that God tells us with fact, veracity, and honesty that Jesus is the **Way** the Truth and the Life? How great do these explain what God is? And from John 3:21, but he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God. Therefore by practicing the fact, veracity, and honesty one comes closer to God.

So restating the scripture, ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of **grace** and **truth**. By accepting Christ, we all receive God's mercy.

Therefore, what do we do when the world does not recognize the light that John came as a witness to testify? We look at John 1: 8-9, ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light what gives light to every man was coming in to the world.

We all share this light, and we all can live for the light. A great phrase that I learned at TCX refers to the meaning of life for Christians, live it for eternity. So what about the people who do not know the light, the people still in the shadows? We need to tell them, we need to show them how wonderful the light is.

As stated earlier, He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. Let us change that. Let us share the light with the people that we know. I ask you to join me in this task that we can start here at Augie. God's people do not have

to be in the shadows, we can accept him. Lets take a page from the Ghanaians and talk to people we do not know. Together, we can bring the light to our campus in 2010. Amen.

MORNING WORSHIP
Friday, January 8, 2010

PRELUDE

Laura Ayres

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

PRAYER

HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

ELW #574, vv. 1,2

SCRIPTURE

John 1:10-18

MESSAGE

Michael Stutelberg
Hometown: Woodbury, MN
Major: Chemistry

HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

ELW #574, v. 3

LORD’S PRAYER

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace and share the Word.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH FEST - Volunteers wanted! Faith Fest at Augustana is an annual high school youth retreat. This year we are focusing on raising awareness and money for world hunger. The event is February 13-14, 2010.

Volunteers are needed for small group leaders, overnight chaperones, game leaders, concert helpers, and help with a volleyball tournament. Faith Fest will also be packaging food with Kids Against Hunger. If you're interested, please contact Nicole Lauck at nmlauck07@ole.augie.edu or sign up in the Chapel Narthex

ST. DYSMAS - Campus Ministry will be attending worship at the SD State Penitentiary on Thurs., February 18, 2010. There will be a sign-up sheet and clearance form available in the chapel office. If you attended last Nov., your clearance form is good for a year. Just sign your name on the sheet on Narthex table. **The forms need to be completed and in to Carol by noon on February 2nd.**

Chapel Schedule:

Sunday (10 th)	Worship, 11 am - Ann Pederson
Monday (11 th)	Worship, 10 am - Dr. Mary Helen Harris
Tuesday (12 th)	Koinonia, 10 am - chapel Narthex (those considering church vocations)
Wednesday (13 th)	Holy Communion, 10 am - Ann Pederson
Friday (15 th)	Service of Healing & Reconciliation, 10 am