

The following was prepared on demand for *THE DOOR* - a student publication at LSTC

Walter Ludwig Michel (\* May 19, 1932)

December 6, 1994

1. JOB TITLE: Professor of Old Testament. I wish it were: Professor of Hebrew and Biblical Exegesis (Hebrew Bible/Old Testament)
2. TELL ABOUT YOUR EDUCATION: *Theology*: Universities of Vienna, Austria (M.Div. equiv.) & Heidelberg, Germany. *Hebrew & Semitic Studies*: University of Wisconsin-Madison (M.A., Ph.D.), Yale University, Pontifical Biblical Institute
3. TELL ABOUT WHERE YOU GREW UP: As an Austrian in Slavonia in Yugoslavia (speaking German and Serbo-Croatian), Poland, and Vienna, Austria
4. DO YOU HAVE A NICKNAME? Fortunately, no.
5. WHAT LANGUAGES DO YOU SPEAK? German, English and some Latvian (wife and children speak Latvian to each other and German to me)
6. WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR LEISURE TIME? Read, study, watch movies, spend time with family and friends in conversation, go for walks, marvel at nature (even here in Hyde Park)
7. WHAT IS THE LAST GOOD BOOK YOU READ? *Christian Antisemitism: A History of Hate*, by William Nicholls (Northvale, New Jersey & London: Jason Aronson, 1993)
8. WHAT IS THE LAST GOOD MOVIE YOU SAW? *Schindler's List*
9. TELL ABOUT YOUR FAMILY: Married for 30 years: one wife, Gundega (Ph.D., Physical Chemistry, Latvian activist), one daughter, Selga (civil engineer), one son, Dainis (last year at U. of I. Champaign-Urbana: English, rhetoric, music, Russian). Children speak three *native* languages: Latvian, German, English
10. WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT YOU? I am a licensed Austrian folk dance teacher (specialty: waltz, polka, intricate figure dances)
11. WHAT ARE THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOU? Enthusiastic, devout, conscientious
12. IF YOU WEREN'T A TEACHER/MINISTER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE? Architect, landscaper, furniture builder (everything *must* be humane, comfortable and beautiful)
13. WHAT DOES RETIREMENT LOOK LIKE TO YOU? Opportunity to complete several books and articles in the area of Hebrew Bible and much more reading
14. WHAT DO YOU WANT THE LSTC COMMUNITY TO KNOW ABOUT YOU? This is my 37th year of teaching in the church (first grade to pastors, doctoral candidates and fellow professors) I love it (in spite of all the pain). Ignorance is not bliss.
15. USE 1-5 WORDS TO DESCRIBE AN IMPORTANT AREA OF MINISTRY FOR YOU THIS YEAR: Extremely concerned about how to be a Christian after the Holocaust/Shoah ("annihilation").

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