

AT RANDOM

Fond Recollections

One encounter with Dan over half a century ago set the tone for our friendship.

Dan and I were both working on doctorates at the University of Michigan. It may have been his second, I don't remember. What I do remember is that Dan and Joyce (known as "Josette" then) invited me to their apartment for a Friday evening supper. Afterwards, at worship, Dan prayed. I listened with a smile, for there was obviously someone on the other end of that line, and they were on good terms. When we rose, I wanted to shout (like Henry Higgins in the play "My Fair Lady"), "By George, he's got it!"

Why get excited? For five years, I'd been studying oral communication, beginning at the University of Cape Town, then getting good grounding with William de Mille, in Southern California. He made sure that not individual performance, but the relationship developing among us on the stage, was what came across the theater footlights.

At the University of Michigan, Chairman Densmore and others were training politicians, preachers, business executives and graduate students in oral communication for the TV era. That meant knowing and responding to what listeners and viewers were saying in their minds, so that the two-way circuit was not only open, but humming with recognition, warmth, pleasure, respect, friendship—the attitudes the human voice reveals at the best moments of a lively relationship.

And Dan's voice in prayer had peaked at a disclosure that was unmistakable for me as a professional: He and God were friends.

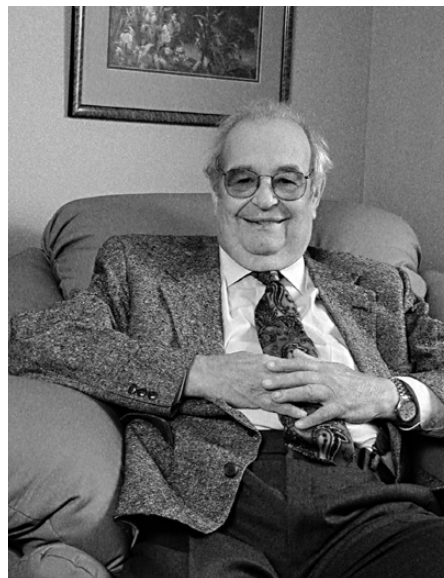
It's been a pleasure, a privilege and a blessing to be associated for over half a century with a man who enjoys God's friendship.

Thank you, Dan.

*Elaine Giddings
Professor Emerita of Communication*

There are so many things I could say about Dr. Augsburger! I could talk about our first conversations when I was interviewing for a job at Andrews University and how, even then, we laid plans to do a book together on Christian business ethics. I could talk about being introduced to "raclette" at his house! I could talk about the

inspiration I received when I sat in his Christian business ethics class the first year I was on the faculty at Andrews. I could talk about his ability to charm even the most unreachable students.



"I thank God for the gifts He has given us through Dan and pray that I can in some way emulate my very good friend."

But I want to talk about the three dried roses in my office.

The job of being a dean of a school on this campus is often a lonely one, and many times things occur which cannot be shared with anyone. Most of the time administrators are successful in keeping concerns under wrap, but sometimes the carefully crafted cover slips.

During one particularly difficult January, the cover was increasingly difficult to keep in place. One snowy day as I was walking across campus, I met Dr. Augsburger. He greeted me warmly—the way he greets everyone—and

asked how things were going. Of course I told him all was well, but with his keen eye, he could see right through the talk. We each went our own way – and I forgot all about the conversation.

About three hours later three roses appeared on my desk! Roses in January! With them was an encouraging note, indicating that in the world that *really* counts, all was well.

I dried those roses—they still sit on my desk. They are a testimony to eyes that see through covers and a heart that responds to need wherever it is found. And a keen sense of action—even on a cold winter day when roses rarely bloom.

*Ann Gibson, Dean
School of Business*

My memories of Dan Augsburger begin with my college years here at Andrews. Two elements of Dr. Augsburger's character have remained steadfastly in my mind: his attention to detail and his extremely warm personality. In class, I could always count on the fact that he knew his stuff and could communicate it well. Attending his class was never an unpleasant chore, though studying for his tests was always a challenge. Perhaps my fondest memory is that of meeting Dr. Augsburger on the sidewalk. He always made me feel comfortable. The mere sight of his smile could change a so-so day into a great day.

When I returned to Andrews as a faculty member, I wondered how new realities would alter old memories. Buildings seemed somehow different and college students seemed so much younger. Old memories had to be matured! But when I ran into Dan I discovered that the two elements of his character that had first impressed me had not changed. If anything, his smile was even more infectious. I could always count on being able to talk with him and receive his wisdom. For years I was assigned Dan's old office, an assignment with double pleasure knowing that Dan once worked there. I thank God for the gifts He has given us through Dan and pray that I can in some way emulate my very good friend.

*Keith Mattingly, Chair
Dept of Religion and Biblical Languages*