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Occupation/vocation: College professor (retired)

**I believe** there is a great opportunity to help today's college students and faculty understand the true meaning of the word "evangelical," by broadening our outreach to them. Common media stereotypes make my colleagues think that Christians are narrow-minded individuals who are quite different from the people that I love in the churches that I love. Of course university folk are only a small minority of the general population. But as I keep reading only about mission activity that is directed elsewhere, I can't help hoping that one or more people with theological expertise will be inspired to become "apostles" to modern universities.

I tried to do a little along those lines 20 years ago, when I gave a series of lectures at MIT about relations between faith and science — reprinted in my book *Things A Computer Scientist Rarely Talks About*. But I'm only a layperson.

**Writing *The Art of Computer Programming***, which people tell me is sometimes called the Bible of computer programming, has been my main life's work, still unfinished. This series of books tries to capture and explain the principal ideas of computer science, the techniques that underlie almost every computer application today and are likely to remain important for many years to come.

**My faith** has been a source of inspiration throughout, because I believe God is pleased when people create innovations that make our world ever better.

**Receiving the Turing Award in 1974, among others**, has led me to continue to nurture computer science as well as I can. I was especially pleased to receive the National Medal of Science from President Carter in 1979, because it showed that my comparatively new field was coming of age and taking its place among established sciences such as physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics.

**My book *3:16 Bible Texts Illuminated***, on the other hand, has almost nothing to do with computer science. It did arise, however, from my scientific work, which taught me that the best way to understand a complex subject is to choose a few unbiased, more-or-less random parts of the whole and to explore them in depth.

Thus I decided one day to learn more about the Bible by finding out everything I could about Genesis 3:16, Exodus 3:16, ..., Revelation 3:16. To my astonishment, each of those verses proved to be extremely interesting and thought-provoking. The Bible was much richer than I had expected; my Sunday School knowledge had given me a misleading impression. I learned that there's plenty of good stuff there for adults to chew on — more than a lifetime's worth, actually.

Therefore I couldn't resist sharing what I'd learned, by writing a book. Meanwhile my work on developing software for book publishing had introduced me to some of the world's greatest graphic artists. By God's grace, about 60 leading calligraphers agreed to illustrate my book; and I was naturally pleased when *The Lutheran* chose to feature one of those illustrations on its cover for December 1991.

**I began playing piano** at home, because my father was a Lutheran school teacher, a part-time piano teacher, and church organist. My own piano teacher taught me how to play a pipe organ when I was 12. Later, when I was a junior faculty member at Caltech, the organist of our church suddenly became ill; I was asked to fill his shoes for several months. I fell in love with the organ at that time, partly because Pasadena was home to many wonderful organ soloists.

**I began to plan a musical composition for the organ**, to be based on the Book of Revelation, during those years. Walter Schroeder, a Caltech professor, had been leading a homegrown Bible class at our church about Revelation, and I noticed that the structure of Revelation had a lot in common with music. In fact, I began to think that someone — me? — should write music that follows the themes of Revelation almost exactly, weaving them together in notes instead of in words.

That idea haunted me and inspired me for almost 50 years, during which time I continued to learn more and more about music and about the Bible. Finally, in 2012, I realized that if such a "pipe dream" was ever going to be realized, I'd better get to work. The result, after many weekends of part-time activity and many false starts, was *Fantasia Apocalyptica*. This multi-media composition has brought me great

joy, because I have a strange feeling that it was almost dictated by a "muse." God must have been blessing this project, because Jan Overduin (a leading Canadian organist) bonded with it immediately and agreed to play the premiere concerts.

The world premiere of *Fantasia Apocalyptica* took place early in January, 2018, when more than 150 people traveled to northern Sweden for the occasion — my 80th birthday! One can now watch that performance on YouTube.

**One of the first computer programs I wrote** was to produce super-complete statistics for my college basketball team. That's another video you can see on YouTube: Look for 'The Electronic Coach'.

**People are surprised** that I stopped using email in 1990. After 15 years of email, starting in 1975, I decided that enough was enough; I wanted to be able to get work done again.

**It's important for me** to be active in my congregation, because we build each other up as we worship.

**My favorite Bible story is** the Good Samaritan, I guess. But my favorite Bible *passages* are undoubtedly Genesis 3 : 16, Exodus 3 : 16, . . . , Revelation 3 : 16.

**I'm a Lutheran** because my parents and grandparents, and indeed all my known ancestors back to the 1600s, were Lutheran. Furthermore, like Joseph Sittler, I'm especially pleased to have been raised in the Lutheran tradition because it taught me that I didn't need a "cerebral bypass operation" in order to approach God. Lutherans use their God-given intelligence to dig deeply into spiritual questions. Martin Luther was a great scholar — a man who used his head and his heart simultaneously.