



# Otto Christoph Krogstrup

Bethlehem Digital History Project

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B, Our late Br. Otto Christoph Krogstrup  
who went home in Bethlehem Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1785, has  
wrote the following concerning his life:  
I was born in Denmark in the Island Fuhmen  
Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> 1714. My Father was a devout & pious  
Man, who had a Conexion with God, & who endea-  
voured to train up his Children in his Ways. In  
my Childrens Years I had many gracious Visits  
from our Dr. Savr. In my 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Year he  
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Our late Br. Otto Christoph Krogstrup also went home in Bethlehem Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1785 has wrote the following concerning his life:

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was so near to me in the Christmas Night, that my heart was filled with joy on account of his Birth bringing Salvation, & retained such an Impression of it, that I always would preach of it. I often began to speak with the People in our House concerning God, so that they wondered, not knowing what to think of me. Growing older I lost at last this tender feeling & coming into the Latin School in a Town, I grew indifferent about our Dr. Saur, & came with the young People into a lightminded course. Yet I was always uneasy, & often reproved in my heart by the Holy Ghost. Coming to the University in Copenhagen & hearing the Rev. Mr. Edewald preach in the Orphan House, who spoke beautifully of our Saur. my conscience awaked again, & during his preaching I grew so uneasy in my heart, that I did not know where to turn. From that Time I reckon my Awakening. I would act & do no more as before but kept to the People called Pietists, & there being no People from the Brns. Congrn. in Copenhagen I was also brought into a legal course, at which I found no Rest for my Heart! Returning home from Copenhagen, I was directly put to the Test, & came into

near to me in the Christmas night, that my heart was filled with joy on account of his birth bringing salvation and retained such an impression of it, that I always would preach of it. I often begun to speak with the people in our house concerning God, so that they wondered, not knowing what to think of me. Growing older I lost at last this tender feeling and coming into the latin[?] school in a town, I grew indifferent about our dr. Saur. and came with the young people into a lightminded course. Yet I was always uneasy, and often reproved in my heart by the Holy Ghost. Coming to the University in Copenhagen and hearing the Revd. Mr. Edewald preach in the Orphan House, who spoke beautifully of our Saur. my conscience awakened again, and during his preaching I grew so uneasy in my heart, that I did not know where to turn. From that time I reckon my awakening. I would act and do no more as before but kept to the people call Pietists, and there being no people from the Brns. Congrn. in Copenhagen, I was also brought into a legal course, at which I found no rest for my heart! Returning home from Copenhagen, I was directly put to the test, and came into

Temptation to deviate from the Work of Grace begun  
in my Heart. A certain Count who held me at my Bap-  
tism, & after whose Name I was called, requested my  
Father, to let me go to him for the Education of his  
Son, he would care for me. But my Father declined it  
and I was glad, that <sup>it went to naught.</sup> ~~nothing came out of it.~~ I went afterwards  
to my Brother in Jüttland who was Minister there and  
awakened in his Heart. I stayed with him several Years  
& helped him in his Office. But I got a Call from my  
Father, that I should come home, because Count Revent-  
lau would have me for his House Chaplain. I was fright-  
ened at this Proposal, & would not resolve upon it,  
seeing before hand, that the Point of my View was to be  
removed. Mean while my Father departed <sup>thence</sup> happily  
& there came again nothing out the Affair. There were  
already 2 Temptations which our Savr. averted gra-  
ciously. At last Bishop Brodersen in Aalborg who  
was a pretty & pious Man made a Proposal to me to  
be the 2<sup>d</sup> Minister with our late Br. Langaard in 3  
Parishes. I considered the Affair before our Savr. &  
resolved upon it with that Condition, that our Savr.  
should have a free Hand, that with me he may do what's  
pleasing in his sight. I then got a royal Vocation for  
this Office, & Bishop Brodersen ordained me for it.  
Continued

temptation to deviate from the work of grace begun in my heart. A certain Count who held me at my baptism, and after whose name I was called, requested my father to let me go to him for the education of his son, he would care for me. But my father declined it and I was glad, that it went to naught. I went afterwards to my brother in Jüttland who was minister there and awakened in his heart. I stayed with him several years and helped him in his office. But I got a call from my father, that I should come home, because Count Reventlau would have me for his House Chaplain. I was frightened at this proposal, and would not resolve upon it, seeing before hand, that the point of my view would be removed. Mean while my father departed this time happily and there came again nothing out of the affair. These were already 2 temptations which our Savr. averted graciously. At last Bishop Brodersen in Aalborg who was a pretty and pious man made a proposal to me to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> minister with our late Br. Langaard in 3 parishes. I considered the affair before our Savr. and resolved upon it with the condition, that our Savr. should have a free hand, that with me he may do what's pleasing in his sight. I then got a royal vocation for this office, and Bishop Brodersen ordained me for it.

I continued here 7 years & became acquainted in that  
Time with the Brn. <sup>& particularly Christ[ian] David</sup> who visited the awakened People  
in Denmark. Afterwards came still more Brn. & Srs.  
particularly proved the Rev. Mr. Grasman a great  
Blessing to me, he stayed in Steppingen for some time  
& frequently visited the awakened Ministers. In this  
Time a real Uncertainty about my Soul begun with me  
I learned to know my unbelieving Heart, & became  
much concerned about our Savr. In this concern I went  
on for some Time, & prayed our Savr. heartily to mani-  
fest himself to my Heart in his Cross's Figure, for  
I could not believe it, that he had died for me. I got  
at last thro' his Grace such a Look into his Wounds, that  
it was to me as if I saw him on the Cross. What a Joy  
this occasioned in me I can not describe nor shall I  
ever forget it. He was afterwards particularly near  
to me for some Time, & I could not refrain to relate  
what our Savr. had done on my Soul. From that Time  
I reckon my spiritual Birth. I begun now to preach  
openly publicly with a tender Feeling & Grace concerning  
his Love, Suffering & Death, so that it was a Blessing  
to me & others. But it became directly clear to me  
that I belonged to the Congr. & that I should not stay  
here. I got also in my Heart a Call to the Congr.

I continued here 7 years and became acquainted in that time with the Brn. and particularly Christ[ian] David who visited the awakened people in Denmar. Afterwards came still more Brn. and Srs. particularly proved the Revd. Br. Grasman a great blessing to me, he stayed in Steppingen for some time and frequently visited the awakened ministers. In this time a real uneasiness about my soul begun with me. I learned to know my unbelieving heart, and became much concerned about our Savr. In this concern I went on for some time, and prayed our Savr. heartily to manifest himself to my heart in his cross's figure, for I could not believe it, that he had died for me. I got at last thro' his grace such a look into his wounds, that it was to me as if I saw him on the cross. What a joy this occasioned in me I can not describe nor shall I ever forget it. He was afterwards particularly near to me for some time, and I could not refrain to relate what our Savr. had done on my soul. From that time I reckon my spiritual birth. I begun now to preach publicly with a tender feeling and grace concerning his love, suffering and death, so that it was a blessing to me and others. But it became directly clear to me that I belonged to the Congr. And that I should not stay here. I got also in my heart a call to the Congr.

& I begged our Savr. that he would direct Matters  
so, that it might come to pass. I asked for Leave but  
got an Answer by Br. Johannes, that I should not  
go away as long as our Savr. would have <sup>me to stay</sup> there. With  
which Dalva was satisfied, but believed certainly it  
would once come to pass & that our Savr. himself would  
open the Way. I continued yet several Years in Office.  
Many People were awakened by the Gospel, & became  
concerned about their Salvation, most of whom came  
also to the Congrn. but many opposed the Gospel &  
sought for a Cause to lodge Complaints against me  
with the Bishop, & not being able to find anything re-  
prehensible in the Doctrine, they sought an Occasion  
to attack me on account of the Confession. I could  
from the Beginning never impart the Absolution  
to them otherwise, than with the Condition, if they  
repented on account of their Sins, & were believing  
in their Hearts. Now the Danish Church Rites con-  
taining an absolute Absolution, they got from thence  
an Opportunity to accuse me. Once at the Confession  
many People pressed upon me in the Confession Chair  
wanting to force me to absolve them according to the  
Ritual

And I begged our savr. that he would direct matters so, that it might come to pass. I asked for leave but got an answer by Br. Johannes, that I should not go away as long as our Savr. would have me to stay there. With which I also was satisfied, but believed certainty that would once come to pass and that our Savr. himself would open the way. I continued yet several years in office. Many people were awakened by the gospel, and became concerned about their salvation, most of whom came also to the Congrn. but many opposed the gospel and sought for a course to lodge complaints against me with the Bishop, and not being able to find anything reprehensible in the doctrine, they sought an occasion to attack me on account of the Confession. I could from the beginning never impart the absolution to them otherwise, than with the condition, if they repented on account of their sins, and were believing in their hearts. Now the Danish church rites containing an absolute Absolution, they got from them and opportunity to accuse me. Once at the confession many people pressed upon me in the confession chair wanting to force me to absolve them according to the ritual,

Ritual, but I declared to them before the Face of  
Jesus Christ, that I could not act otherwise, than I had  
done hitherto, whereupon many of them went away  
without Absolution. Their Complaints came before  
the King, who declared, that if I would not keep strict-  
ly to the Ritual in the Confession Chair I must lay  
down my Office. There was now no other Way, but  
to take my Dismission which also the King granted  
to me graciously. I mentioned these Circumstances  
to Br. Grasman who gave me now Leave to go to the  
Congrn. Thus our Savr. has heard my Prayer, & brought  
to bear my Fall to the Congrn. for which I shall thank  
him eternally. In Jan. 1748 I went to Herrnhutt.  
O how happy was I, seeing myself now in that City  
of God & in the Congrn. In June the same Year I  
went to Marienborn, In July I was received into the  
Congrn at Herrnhag & in Sept. admitted to the H.  
Comm. Here I had a new School, when I learned to  
know myself better, but found also Comfort & Grace  
in the Wounds of Jesus for my poor Heart, so that  
with all my Misery I could keep childlike to  
him who atoned for me, & had shown so much Love

but I declared to them before the face of Jesus Christ, that I could not act otherwise, than I had done hitherto, whereupon many of them went away without absolution. Their complaints came before the King, who declared, that if I would not keep strictly to the ritual in the confessions chair I must lay down my office. There was now no other way, but to take my dismissal which also the King granted to me graciously. I mentioned these circumstances to Br. Grasman who gave me now leave to go to the Congrn. Thus our Savr. has heard my prayer, and brought to bear my call to the Congrn. For which I shall thank him eternally. In Jan. 1748 I went to Herrnhutt. O how happy was I, seeing myself now in that city of God and in the Congrn. In June the same year I went to Marienborn. In July I was received into the Congrn. In Herrnhag and in Sept admitted to the H. Comm. Here I had a new school, when I learned to know myself better, but found also comfort and grace in the wounds of Jesus for my poor heart, so that with all my misery I could keep childlike to him who atoned for me, and had shown so much love

to me from my tenderest Infancy. In Sept. 1749  
I went with 23 Seminarists to Barby, where I had a  
blessed Time for my Heart till 1753 when I went with  
some more Brn. to America. Midst all the Grace &  
Mercy which he has shewn to me, I am a poor Being in myself  
full of Faults & Wants, but I am glad that I am his.  
I poor one am not worthy of the least of all his Mercies  
which he has bestowed upon me. Thus for his own Words.

By this Description our late Br. has given of his  
own Life, the Character of his Heart which our Savr.  
has preserved to him till to his happy Departure, shines  
forth plainly. He was a Vessel of Grace in which dwelled  
divine simplicity & childlikeness on unfeigned Faith  
& tender Love to his dearest Saviour, & which influen-  
ced all his Words & Actions; he was a Jewel among the  
faithful Labourers which our Savr. has granted to his  
Brns. Congrs. tho' he had also his Failings, yet on  
account of his faithful Heart, they were gladly overlooked.  
His Testimony concerning the Love of Love flowed simply  
& without all Affectation out of his Heart & Mouth, & there-  
fore had a Heart captivating Power with all who believed  
it. His converse with Souls was exceedingly loving, &  
always directed to Subjects of the Heart, because he sought  
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to me from my tenderest infancy. In Sept. 1749 I went with 23  
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when I went with some Brn. to America. Midst all the grace and merry  
which he has shown to me, I am a poor being in myself full of faults and  
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By this description our late Br. has given of his own life, the character of  
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Jesus flowed simply and without all affectation out of his heart and  
mouth, and therefore had a heart captivating power with all who believed  
it. His converse with souls was exceedingly loving, and always directed  
to subjects of the heart, because he sought for nothing,

for nothing, but to gain them for our Savr. & to pre-  
serve them with him. Therein he lived, & he could forget  
himself & his convenience about it, & was satisfied whether  
he had it good or bad outwardly. His Service has there-  
fore been blest everywhere in this country, & where he  
has been, it will not easily be forgotten. Having been jo-  
<sup>ined in Matrimony</sup>  
~~married~~ Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> 1757 with Anna Burnet, who de-  
parted happily last Year Oct 5<sup>th</sup> in Lancaster, of <sup>which</sup>  
Marriage 2 Daughters are still alive & in the Choir House  
here, he served with her as Labourer in several of  
our Town-Country & Place Congrs. viz. in Philadel-  
phia, Litiz in the Manakesy in Maryland now called  
Graceham, Yorktown, & lastly & the longest in Lan-  
caster, & on many of these Places at 2 different Times.  
The Congrn in Lancaster will particularly call to  
Mind with Gratitude his last Service to her & her  
Children which lasted 11 Years. In the Year 1784 he  
was there several times so sick & grew so weakly  
that it was thought necessary to relieve him. But  
before this could be brought about our Savr. took  
his dr. Wife a faithful & blessed & blessed Hand  
Maid of the Lord from his Side, after which he was

but to gain them for our Savr. and to preserve them with him. Therein he lived, and he would forget himself and his convenience about it, and was satisfied whether he had it good or bad outwardly. His service has therefore been blest everywhere in this country, and where he has been it will not easily be forgotten. Having been joined in h.[oly] matrimony Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> 1757 with Anna Burnet, who departed happily last year Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> in Lancaster, of which marriage 2 daughters are still alive and in the Choir House here, he served with her as labourer in several of our town-country and place congrns. viz. In Philadelphia, Litiz in the Manakesy in Maryland now called Graceham, Yorktown, and lastly and the longest in Lancaster, and on many of these places at 2 different times. The Congrn. In Lancaster will particularly call to mind with gratitude his last service to her and her children which lasted 11 years. In the year 1784 he was several times so sick and grew so weakly that it was thought necessary to relieve him. But before this could be brought about our Savr. took his dr. wife a faithful and blessed handmaid of the Lord from his side, after which he was soon

soon relieved in Lancaster by our dr. Br. & Sr.  
Rusmeyer, & he came hither to Bethlehem <sup>to rest</sup> as a  
weak and sick Servant. His Countryman our Br.  
Jast Jansen took him into his House, & nursed him  
out of old Acquaintance & Love. He recovered here  
soon, & even <sup>now</sup> in his advanced Age he wished to spend  
the Remainder of his decreasing Strength in the Service  
of our Sarr. Therefore the care of the little House  
Congrn in Gnadenthal near Nazareth was committed  
to him. He did it with Joy, but had there the Misfor-  
tune to fall down a pair of Stairs in the dark, which  
probably was the Occasion to a Hurt in his Breast, &  
of his Sickness following, tho' he did not much com-  
plain about it. His Eyes also growing so weak, that  
he could no more keep the Meetings, he was relieved in  
Gnadenthal by our dr. Br. & Sr. Busse, & taken again  
hither to Bethlehem, to be nursed the better which he  
stood much in Need of. Dr. & Sr. Böhler took him  
willingly into their House, & have shown much Faith-  
fulness & Love to him till to his End. Both his dr.  
Daughters were also glad to have an Opportunity  
to nurse a part in nursing their dr. Father in his  
old

relieved in Lancaster by our dr. Br. and Sr. Rusmeyer, and he came hither to Bethlehem to rest as a weak and sick servant. His countryman and Br. Jast Jansen took him into his house, and nursed him out of old acquaintance and love. He recovered here soon, and even now in his advanced age he wished to spend the remainder of his decreasing strength in the service of our Sarr. Therefore the care of the little Congrn. In Gnadenthal near Nazareth was committed to him. He did it with joy, but had there the misfortune to fall down a pair of stairs in the dark, which probably was the occasion to a hurt in his breast and of his sickness following, tho' he did not much complain about it. His eyes also growing so weak, that he could no more keep the meeting, he was relieved in Gnadenthal by our dr. Br. and Sr. Busse, and ten again hither to Bethlehem, to be nursed the better which he stood much in need of Br. & Sr. Böhler took him willingly into their house, and have shown much faithfulness and love to him till to his end. Both his dr. daughters were also glad to have an opportunity to assist in nursing their dr. father in his old

old Age. He was not long here, when the concealed  
Conclusion in his Breast brake open by a packing of  
Blood, his right Side was also lamed by a paralytic  
Fit, & we saw plainly that he had only come hither  
for his Completion. He himself said: "I have spoken  
about it with our Savr. & he has made it clear & sure  
to me that my Time here is at an End. I am quite  
ready & in a good Understanding with my dr. Lord.  
I go to him with Joy out of free Grace. He has preserved  
me from an unfaithful Heart. He will also keep my  
2 dr. Daughters to himself & his Wound." The packing  
of Blood connected with Cramps on his Breast & in  
the Arm continued Day & Night, & the Means made  
use of gave him but little & short Ease. Oct 5<sup>th</sup> being  
the Day of the Departure of his late Wife a Year ago,  
he would gladly have followed her; but it pleased our  
Savr. to let him stay here a few Days longer. But his  
Pains increased daily more, so that his Prayer, that  
our Savr. might soon come & take him became more  
fervent. On Sunday Evening he desired with great  
Longing to be blessed for his Departure, & said: My  
Heart is already broke; Naught but Jesus Grace &  
Merit, Naught but that procured <sup>for me</sup> alone, that I sinner

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for his departure, and said: my heart is already broke; naught but Jesus  
grace and merit, bought but that procured for me, that I sinner

can inherit Bliss eternal Sanctity. Thereupon the  
Blessing for his Departure was imparted to him, at  
which he joined in singing the Verses & praying. In the  
Midst of all his Pains, he was quite sensible to the  
very last, listened to all that was spoken or sung,  
& joined in singing the Verses which were sweet to his  
Heard. On Monday Morning Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> between 6 & 7  
o'clock he still desired, that some Verses might be sung  
& the daily Word read, which suited well to his Desire  
to depart. it was: He spoke and it was done, he com-  
manded & it stood fast. We're committing to Thee our  
Affairs. The Prayer of all present joined with  
his for the speedy Accomplishment of it, & a few  
Minutes after he stretched out his Hands towards  
his Children as if he would bless them, breathed the  
last Time, & departed in an Age of 71 Years, 1 Month  
& 3 Weeks & 1 Day.

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departed in an age of 71 years, 1 month 3 weeks and 1 day.