

## **PIISPAN ILLALLISILLA GÖTEBORGISSA (englanniksi, 3–4 min.)**

My esteemed superior, Archbishop Walter Obare, Mission Bishop Arne Olsson, who is like the spiritual father to me and Mission Bishop Roland Gustafsson, and other bishops, ladies and gentlemen, I rejoice profoundly in the great fellowship that has – thanks to the gospel of Christ – come to be between Sweden and Finland in the recent years. During the last week it has been further strengthened.

My word today are very personal and directed to Mission Bishop Roland. The joy of my superior, Bishop Roland Gustafsson will now, however, be put to a test, when I openly tell, what kind of a worker and colleague he has in me. My wife Irma has seen my following words and she is ready to sign them.

Firstly, I would like to recall what I told in my presentation here in Gothenburg on the 14th of November last year. I told that I come from the Eastern Province called Savo in Finland and rumour has it that people from this region are so full of sin that other people would believe this even if the Bible told us nothing of the sin of man.

Secondly, dear friends, in my family background there is another issue that will not increase my superior's trust in me: namely, my grandmother was Bishop. This is true! I too feel a bit of sorry for that. For if my family name would be Bishop, like in the case of my grandmother, I could answer to the Archbishop of the Church of Finland who has announced that he will not recognize my episcopacy, by paraphrasing apostle Paul: you Mr. Archbishop have gained your episcopacy by hard work and as a result of a vote, but I was born a Bishop.

Thirdly, my dear superior, Mission Bishop Roland Gustafsson, for the sake of honesty I have to tell you of a third issue, that you should take into account when thinking of me as your employee. In Finland it is widely recognized that whenever someone from the Province of Savo stands up to say something, the responsibility is transferred to the listener.

Your honour, Mission Bishop Roland Gustafsson, due to your challenging task as a superior, I will promise to pray daily for you, so that you might receive heavenly wisdom and strength in the implementation of your demanding ministry.

Dear friends, you do understand that I cannot say "Amen" in the end of the egocentric words like these. Therefore I finish just like movies during my childhood: "the end".

God bless all of you in Jesus name!

Matti Väisänen  
Bishop of Missionsprovince