About the Founder

Vidar Lee Byberg | A life shaped by questions of inheritance and Home.

Vidar Lee Byberg brings more than thirty years of leadership experience across energy, agriculture, technology, and education. His career spans public and private companies and nonprofit organizations, with work in the United States and internationally encompassing economic analysis, business development, entrepreneurship, and organizational leadership. An educator, entrepreneur, songwriter, author, and founder of DAWN, he has returned to a closely related set of questions: What have we received? What are we building? What will we place in the hands of those who follow?

Those questions began long before DAWN had a name. Raised in South America, educated in Norway and the United States, and later working on both sides of the Atlantic, he encountered different communities wrestling with familiar hopes for purpose, belonging, responsibility, and a life worth sharing.

From boardrooms to classrooms

After earning his MBA at the University of Minnesota, Vidar's professional journey included Coopers & Lybrand in Minneapolis, work as an economist and business developer with Phillips Petroleum in Norway and Oklahoma, and about twenty years in leadership with Life Science Innovations in Minnesota. His later work extended into educational entrepreneurship and organizational development in Minnesota and North Carolina.

These settings offered different ways of asking what helps people flourish. A business must decide what its growth will serve; an educator must consider the kind of life an education prepares a person to lead. In each setting, practical work brought larger questions about wisdom, stewardship, and responsibility close enough to live with.

The creative work before DAWN

In 2009, Vidar produced his first album, with the theme For Love of Liberty and Country, with twelve original songs exploring gratitude, sacrifice, freedom, and inheritance. Three years later, he authored Builders of Our Land, reflecting on leadership and the foundations of healthy communities. He has also co-authored a book.

During that earlier season, he founded a community choir of approximately 200 voices for concerts in Western Minnesota. The final celebration, featuring Lee Greenwood, drew approximately 2,000 attendees. The experience helped him see how music could bring people together around faith, gratitude, and shared responsibility.

The inheritance that becomes personal

Vidar and his wife, Nancy, raised three sons and now enjoy the blessing of grandchildren. Family life has made the questions behind his work increasingly personal: the lessons children remember, the stories grandchildren may never hear unless someone tells them, and the faith that becomes visible through an ordinary life.

His father's lifetime of pastoral service and his own relationships with mentors helped deepen his concern for generations he may never meet. Following his father's death at age 91, that concern found a particularly personal expression in He Called Him by Name, the collection's closing epilogue about homegoing, the Shepherd's promise, and the hope of reunion.

A beginning entrusted to others

DAWN gathers these long-standing concerns into creative work that can be shared. Its immediate focus, A Song for the Generations, brings sixteen songs together with companion stories, illustrations, and narrated reflections, while development continues on the recordings and related resources.

The vision has roots extending across decades; DAWN's current body of work is a recent undertaking. Vidar's hope is that what he brings as an author and founder will make room for the gifts of others, so that a story begun in one life can become an encouragement in another.

Contact: byberg@dawn.education | 320-905-2887

Return to Founder’s Notes at dawn.education