

NEWS & NOTES: UPCOMING EVENTS

Plymouth - Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Tue, Feb 14: 2023 MacDonald Lectures w/ Dr. Matt Shrader

*The Building of a Baptist Tradition: The Early History and
Theology of the Northern Baptist Convention*

Plymouth - Fourth Baptist Church

Sun-Wed, Mar 12-15: Missions Conference

Sat, Mar 25: Deo Cantamus Agape concert at 4:00pm in the
auditorium—*Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living*

Willmar - Cornerstone Baptist Church

Sat, Apr 1, 156th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern
Association of Baptist Churches. Don Odens will be speaking
on "Overcoming Discouragement." Don will also speak April 2-4
on "Sitting at the Master's Feet". The Sunday services will be at
9:30, 10:30AM and 12:45PM with a potluck in between the
services. The meetings on Mon and Tues will start at 6:30PM.

MBA Pastors & Wives Retreat in Morris - April 10-11th

Mon-Tue, Apr 10-11 at First Baptist Church of Morris
Register at mbaoc.org Pastors Discount at GrandStay Hotel & Suites

MBA Ladies Retreat at Grace Baptist-Owatonna, April 21-22nd

Fri-Sat, Apr 21-22 "Tethered to the Savior" w/ Faith Taylor

FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE MINNESOTA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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VICE PRESIDENT

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*Exalting Christ
Among the
Churches*

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North Star Update

www.mbaoc.org

FEB 2023

A PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



A Page from MBA History: Rev. E. P. Fosmark,

General Secretary of the Minnesota Baptist Convention

In 1943 Rev. Edwin Palmer Fosmark, who at that time was the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jamestown, North Dakota, was called to be the General Secretary of the Minnesota Baptist Convention, which was then affiliated with the Northern Baptist Convention.

E. P. Fosmark had been reared in Enchant, Alberta, Canada, and had left home at the age of 13 to become a cowboy for the next 8 years, herding cattle and horses from Canada to Texas. When he returned home at the age of 21, his older brother, Carl, who was a Norwegian Free Church of Canada pastor, led him to accept the Lord as his personal Saviour.

E. P. Fosmark immediately left for Chicago to attend the Moody Bible Institute. After graduation in 1931, he entered Trinity Seminary, a Free Church seminary, which was then operating in Minneapolis, Minnesota. While attending seminary, he also attended First Baptist Church, and came under the influence of Dr. W. B. Riley, who took him under his wing, and personally mentored him. When he graduated from Trinity, he came out calling himself "a convicted Baptist, a fighting fundamentalist, an incurable separatist, an eternal optimist, and a confirmed local church man."

At the urging of Dr. Riley, E. P. Fosmark joined the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship of the Northern Baptist Convention. Dr. Riley had begun this movement within the Northern Baptist Convention to



give a voice to fundamentalism within the modernist controlled convention. While in the FBF, E. P. Fosmark made close friendship with Dr. Clearwaters who was then pastoring in the state of Iowa.

For the next two years following graduation from seminary, E.P. Fosmark served as an evangelist, personal soul winner and itinerant church planting missionary in Upper Ontario, Canada. During this time he traveled by railroad, Model T, canoe, and dogsled in the wintertime. He held evangelistic meetings, and was used to start some 22 churches in isolated communities. His years as a cowboy served him well, sleeping under the stars and cooking over a campfire in the wild country of Upper Ontario.

After getting married in 1937, he took a pastorate in Jamestown, North Dakota, and served there until 1943.

Meanwhile in Minnesota, Dr. Riley and Dr. R. V. Clearwaters, who had moved to Minneapolis in 1940, knew that not only was the national convention split between the modernist proponents and fundamentalists, but that the Minnesota state convention was very divided. Modernism had a strong foothold in the state. At the national level, Fundamentalists were divided between those who wished to stay within the national convention in order to try to purge out modernism and those who believed the time had come to separate from the modernism and infidelity rampant within the Northern Convention. Also they knew that the battle to save the state convention for fundamentalism would be a bitter battle. Dr. Riley and Dr. Clearwaters suggested to the state board that they call Rev. E.P. Fosmark, the “fighting fundamentalist,” to lead them in the battle as the state general secretary. To this suggestion the board agreed, and they issued the call. Rev. E. P. Fosmark accepted the call, and moved to Minneapolis in the later part of 1943.

Immediately upon arrival in Minnesota, Rev. Fosmark “hit the trail” to visit every church within the state convention, seeking to hold revival meetings, and to make each pastor and church member aware of the modernism that was then in control of the national convention. Mrs. Harriet Bratrud, a doctor’s wife and member of the state convention board, in speaking with this author, called Rev. Fosmark “a hound for the trail.” During the next two years, Rev. Fosmark continued to visit all the state churches, and to preach

on II Corinthians 6:14-18. In response to this challenge the churches of the Minnesota Baptist Convention, in their annual state meeting in 1946, voted to leave the Northern Baptist Convention, and to become an independent state Baptist convention. Praise the Lord for their willingness to take a separated stand for the fundamentals of the faith, for Baptist distinctives, for the whole counsel of God as their sole authority for faith and practice. They subsequently took stands against new evangelism, ecumenism and ecumenical evangelism. Isaiah 8:20 became the key verse among the churches of the Minnesota Baptist Convention (now called the Minnesota Baptist Association).

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”



Paul Fosmark, Monroe Parker,
R.V. Clearwaters, Joe Rammel,
& Don Nelson

by Dr. Paul Fosmark
a Baptist preacher for 60 years

NEWS & NOTES: CHRISTMAS IN BAXTER

First Baptist Church in Baxter, MN had a blessed Christmas season with a children and teen's Christmas program called, “A Pondering Heart” detailing the Christmas story from Mary's perspective. The 2 & 3 year olds dressed as barn animals stole the show! It was memorable and cute. Our choir produced a cantata of favorite Christmas carols, inviting the congregation to sing along. It was a blessing to participate. The cantata itself was written by a former church member, and now accomplished music composer, Heather Sorenson. The teen girls, along with their teacher and pastor's wife, Janelle Peterson, delivered boxes of goodies and sang carols to our widows this Christmas. Our annual Christmas Eve service included many special music numbers from church attenders. Over the Christmas season we were collecting a “Christmas Offering” for our building project. It was encouraging to see funds come in for this building expansion project. We hope to finish off more rooms on the second floor to be used for life groups as well as the youth. We're thankful for the many church folk that participate and contribute their time, talents and money for the work of the Lord.