

Summary of Transcript

This oral interview runs approximately forty-five minutes and is an informal discussion between Lynn Wilkinson (acting Trinity Western University archivist) and Carl Fosmark in 1983. Carl Fosmark was a member of an Evangelical Free Church committee that was responsible for forming, developing, and instituting what is presently Trinity Western University.

The interview begins with an overview of Carl Fosmark's life from childhood through to high-school. Fosmark was born in Litchville, North Dakota in 1900. When he was six his family moved to Alberta, Canada. It was in Alberta that his family became Christians through the work of an Evangelical Free Church preacher. Fosmark was sixteen at this time. Fosmark completed his high-school and seminary training in Minneapolis, taking his first church in Devil's Lake, North Dakota in 1921. Visiting Lutheran friends in Oregon, Fosmark began to preach at their church. Through this, Fosmark met a couple who introduced him to their Evangelical Free Church in Canby, Oregon, where he became resident pastor. Soon after, in 1933, Fosmark accepted a call from an Evangelical Free Church in Brooklyn, New York, where he pastored and also met his wife. After a term in New York, Fosmark returned to Alberta and became district superintendent for the Evangelical Free Church in western Canada, whereupon a committee was formed with the purpose of starting a Christian college [ca. 1958].

Fosmark speaks of the history of the Evangelical Free Church, the various debates in deciding the nature of the school, the opposition to it from many Free Church pastors, funding for the school and the eventual establishment of the school as Trinity Junior College. During this time period, Fosmark also describes his various job titles, travels, moves, and the various people with whom he became friends, namely, Cal Hanson, Ron Swanson, and Dave Enarson.

TRANSCRIPT SUBMITTED BY IAN WALKER

Lynn Wilkinson (LW)

Carl Fosmark (CF)

TIME: 00:00:00

LW - This is January the sixth and I'm interviewing Mr. Carl--

CF - What's that?

LW - I'm just going to speak into the--

CF - Oh yeah, oh yeah, sure. (both speaking at once)

LW - --tape recorder. This is January 6, 1983 and I'm interviewing Reverend Carl Fosmark.

LW - Reverend Fosmark, just before we, um, begin our conversation, maybe we could just pray for a moment--

CF - um-hm

LW - and, just ask the Lord to bless our endeavors.

CF - Hm

LW - Our dear Heavenly Father we do pray that this oral history today will be used for your honour and glory--

CF - Hm

LW - please bless all that is said, and Lord help us remember the very important things. We pray this in your name today, Amen.

CF - Amen, amen. (sound of papers being shuffled)

LW - Now, can I start at the beginning of your life and just ask you--

CF - Oh you want to do that (??)

LW - where and when you were born and-- (laughter)

CF - Oh yeah, well, I was born in North Dakota in a, in a place called Litchville, L-i-t-c-h-v-i-l-l-e.

LW - um-hm

CF - It's from North Dakota, born there on the second of August 1900.

LW - Oh.

CF - So you see I, I'm in my eighty-third year

LW - Eighty-third year, that's easy to figure out isn't it? (laughter)

CF - Yeah.

LW - That's very interesting. What was your home life like, as a [unintelligible]?

CF - Well uh, we were, we were living on a farm--

LW - Oh yes.

CF - at the time.

LW - Yes. (sound of someone walking)

CF - And for, and a bit, for the first six years on that farm-- and my father sold out and then he moved to Oregon and we lived in Oregon for three years, from 1906 to 1909, when we moved to Alberta Canada where my dad had first gone and filed on a homestead.

LW - Oh yes.

CF - So we were going to--

LW - So going to farm again?

CF - --live there, so we, so we moved out on a farm there we, we left in September 1909 for Alberta and then we, by the, by the time we got the farm it was just about, was just about the first of February.

LW - um-hm

CF - So, my, my mother had a cousin who had his place already built and my dad was still building.

LW - I see.

CF - (voice lowered; unintelligible) still erecting the building where we were to live so then I lived there until I was seventeen. And then I left for Minneapolis to attend the Christian high-school there and the Evangelical Free church was running a high-school there.

LW - So did you come from a Christian home?

CF - Yeah, well they, yeah but they, they wouldn't, they, they, mind you my folks just became Christians about two years before I left home.

LW - Oh

CF- Yeah, so--

LW - _____ (??)

CF - we were living in a kind of a godless home for, for as far as I-- my dad was quite a fiddler you know, so he'd fiddle at the dances and there was a lot of drinking and drunkenness. I didn't see my dad any, anytime in _____ (??) very much but the, some of the neighbors--

LW - um-hm

CF - and then they'd fight you know and I'd get—I was only about-- I was born at that time, four, five, six years of age and I was scared to death you know, the way they were behave, the way they behaved you know, like they'd, they'd pull their knife out and start cutting one another, you know. (sound of someone whispering)

LW - Oh.

CF- Oh yeah, yeah.

LW - So you saw some rough times?

CF - Yeah yeah, before they, before we were saved, so it was a good thing that the Lord got somehow, got a hold of my folks.

LW - And how did He--

CF - And that was in Canada.

LW - How, how did He get a hold of you? (laughter)

CF - Well then with my folks being saved I lived there-- well I see, I could see the difference it made, it made a tremendous difference in the life of my dad and mother.

LW - um-hm

CF - Naturally, so I couldn't help but see that, I became convinced that there was such a thing as salvation but I didn't know how to--

LW - um-hm

CF - to experience it, um, but there was a preacher, an Evangelical Free Church preacher who had a cousin living in our community and his cousin had been writing him, inviting him to come up (voice lowered; unintelligible) and urging him to come up, and conduct some meetings in our community.

LW - And which community was that?

CF - What's that?

LW - Which community was that?

CF - Well see, when we came there wasn't anything there, there wasn't even a highway or a road, you just, you just used the trail across the (voice lowered; unintelligible) and there, there was nothing, there wasn't a fence around or anything.

TIME 00:05:01

LW - um-hm

CF - In those days, and when we first came, and, and then, when my folks got saved of course when they announced that this man was going to come to our community for meetings he, he accepting the invitation on the urging of that, of that cousin of his, and so he came.

LW - um-hm

CF - Conducted meetings in our schoolhouse and I had planned not to go out with _____ (??) just, just too bad you know, if I should get saved, well I didn't know-- I'm having more fun in life, well you see how warped we can be in our thinking but, this man was different from many preachers I've ever heard; from, from the first place after he had given his message there in this schoolhouse he stood back, back at the teachers desk there when he conducted the service and then he walked over to the organ, the organ that I had used a lot in, by this time, I used to play it for dances you know sometimes _____ (??) and play the organ for a while, sometimes play the violin and--

LW - um-hm

CF - sometimes guitar, so, eh, this man walked over to that organ and he sat down to the organ and to his own accompaniment sang a hymn, a hymn that was in the form of a question. It was, "Are you building your house upon sand or, or are, are you building your house upon a rock?"

LW - um-hm

CF - And that just went right home to my heart, I knew that if I was going to be honest I'd have to say I'm building my house upon, ah, sand.

LW - um-hm

CF - And then of course you'd be doomed (??) for disappointment.

LW - Right.

CF - And so then that made me very uneasy, and so, and, and it, it was my mother that had gotten me to promise to come to the meetings, otherwise I wouldn't maybe, maybe not have come at all, but, and he was, he had known that he'd be back there in the afternoon for a service too in this schoolhouse, so I went there for the afternoon service and don't you know when he got up to that pulpit and read his text, "The master is here and calleth for thee," and I thought he'd pointed right at me.

LW - Is that right. (whispering)

CF - So then I realized that the Lord was after me and I, attended those meetings for the rest of the time that the (voice lowered; unintelligible).

LW - And how old, how old were you then?

CF - I was about sixteen and a half.

LW - Oh yes.

CF - That was in 1917 and this was in the, in the month of March.

LW - um-hm

CF - So that, by Thursday that week why, why, I accepted the Lord as my Saviour.

LW - um-hm

CF - That was on the twenty-ninth day of March 1917.

LW - And you've been serving Him faithfully now for how many years?

CF - Eh, well then, I, I, I didn't know I was ever going to become a preacher.

LW - Well no.

CF - That never occurred to me and I was wondering-- I, I, my ambition was to become a school teacher.

LW - um-hm

CF - So then I went to the high-school, well then you know, while I was there why, they had a seminary there connect with it and some of these seminary students, they were working on me.

LW - um-hm

CF - And so, finally I decided to go into the seminary and, and there I, I felt that the Lord wanted me in the ministry.

LW - um-hm

CF - And so I took my first church in Devils Lake, North Dakota. I went there for six months, like from September 1921 to March 1922.

LW - um-hm (motor running in background)

CF - I went there, but there was another man that was called there and so he, but he didn't care to go there in the fa¹, in the fall of the year and spend the winter there; he'd rather wait 'til spring before he came, so I filled in there.

LW - um-hm

CF - And then after a while I was there I had sort of a nervous breakdown, I worked too hard. (lowers voice; unintelligible) I didn't get enough exercise, I didn't have sense enough to take care of myself properly.

LW - um-hm

CF - So my nerves began to bother me so I had a hard time to sleep. And at that age you know you're pretty sleepy as a rule, but I couldn't sleep and so then I decided when I had finished my con- term there that I'd, I'd move out to Oregon where we used to live at one time--

LW - You kind of followed the same pattern?

CF - Yeah, yeah-- (speaking at the same time; unintelligible).

LW - Yes, very interesting.

CF - And we had, my, my mother had gotten sick and so she wanted me to take her out there; she was troubled, she was troubled with her kidneys you know, and so I accompanied her out there to Oregon. And the fact is I had gone home to it from the Devils Lake, I went home to Or-, to Alberta; and while I was there, why, then she said she would like to go down to Oregon because she had a friend out there that had been writing her and telling her that she, they had a good doctor out there and that she should (??) or you better (??) come out.

TIME 00:10:26

LW - um-hm

CF - So then I, she, when she told me that I said, sure I would accompany you out there, and they, the home we went to they were Lutherans, strong Lutherans, and, they had a church there and, this Lutheran pastor was evidently (??) a saved man.

LW - um-hm

CF - And so, this, I was introduced to him and then he was going to go away for a Sunday and so he asked me if I would fill the pulpit for him, which I did and, little by little I, I, this man was seeking to get me to join the Lutheran church.

LW - um-hm

CF - But, I wouldn't budge, I didn't feel I should do that but, anyway--

LW - You were in the Evangelical Free Church then were you?

CF - Yeah, well I, but the, the school was in the--

LW - The school yes--

CF - and, and we had, had Evangelical Free church in Minneapolis and I was attending that while I was student, I, I was there for four years.

LW - um-hm

¹ False start; as indicated by one dash mark '-' following the false start

CF - And so, so then, it so happened that they, they were having what they called a circuit meeting, a Lutheran circuit meeting in a certain place and, so he asked me if I'd go with him, _____ (??) and they, they were discuss-- when I, when they, they, me-, meeting, or the gathering was mostly concerned with discussing, they were discussing things there, and so they were discussing the new birth and, in order to say anything you know, you had to raise your hand and be recognized by the chairman and--so on, and so I was recognized and I guess I was about the last one before noon, before lunch, and so, I gave my testimony.

LW - um-hm

CF - I said, I, I don't know if I can explain everything that's involved in being born again but I can tell you my experience, and told them about my life beforehand. I didn't have a use for God or for Bible (??) or, or prayer or anything like that or church but when I, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, well then I, I went on to, to, to testify regarding the change that came in my life and how--

LW - um-hm

CF - my life had been completely changed by Christ coming into my heart and life. So, then, yeah, at that particular--

LW - Place (??)

CF - after the, the close of the service on Thursday well then here comes up a man and his wife and, so they introduced themselves to me and say, "Where did you take your schooling?"

LW - Oh.

CF - So I said I took it at Minneapolis at the Evangelical Free church school and _____ (??) they knew some of the teachers there personally; they said, "we're from the Free Church in Canby, Oregon, Canby here, only about ten miles from where we were, and, we knew that when we, that when you got up there to talk you didn't talk like a Lutheran at all."

LW - Oh. (both laugh)

CF - So-- (both laughing)

LW - (laughter, speaking at the same time; unintelligible)

CF - So that, we want you to visit us as soon as you're able to, so that, that's how I got started at, at, at their church. I didn't know they didn't, that, that they had a church there nearby--

LW - No.

CF - --you know, I didn't know they had a, that they were without a pastor and so--

LW - And so--

CF - then they--

LW - Did God call you to that church then? (both talking at once)

CF - Yeah, yes, I would have been ____ (??) they called me and then, so then the Lord that was in the back of that so--

LW - He must work that out.

CF - And that was in 1923 that I st-, er, twenty-two, 1922 I started there in about, oh, October 1922 of that year, and—oh--they, they, I, I didn't know this, but I, I became the first resident pastor that they'd ever had in that church, they did--

LW - You want to--

CF - so they, they celebrated their diamond jubilee in January, just a year and, almost a year ago that the, not the end of January last year; well they invited me down there to come down there and, that they would help them, one way to help them celebrate that event, so then that's when I realized that was sixty years ago.

LW - Yes.

CF - And I've pastored all these years but not in one, in one place, I--

LW - No.

CF - I was, while I was pastoring there, why then, the, we had a church in Canada by this time that had started in 1917 in, in that town of Enchant Alberta.

TIME 00:15:02

LW - (speaking at the same time; unintelligible) oh yes--

CF - And that, and that, and that was near our, near our farm, only about ten miles from our farm and, so they, they, they got, got after me, and I think about every year at their annual meeting, well then they'd, one of their last items of business was to vote to extend a call to me so I, I got that call repeated to me several times and then I finally went there, and there, went there in twenty, in twenty-eight and then I served them till thirty-three, five years. Then I was called to Brooklyn, New York to the second Evangelical Free church and I served there, there for a few years and--

LW - hm

CF - and also that's where I met my wife.

LW - Oh for goodness sakes.

CF - Yeah, so she's from New York, born right in New York City in the borough of Brook- Brooklyn.

LW - And has she been a Christian for many years or?

CF - What's that?

LW - Was she a Christian for many years, or?

CF - Yeah, she was a Christian when I met her, she was, she was, was a, very favorable, favor, very faithful attender at the services there, and it so happened that, the church was-- consisted of two departments, there was a Norwegian department, that was the main building with the Norwegian department and that's where I pastoring.

LW - um-hm

CF - And the, the, chapel that they had for the, for the young people that, that had developed into a church too, so that was the English department.

LW - Oh.

CF - So the two departments, and so that's where she was a member there. And it so happened that they had, we had two pianists in the church there but, this was the result of, they were, they were not over the depression yet and the men folks couldn't get a job but their wives could get jobs in these wealthy homes you know.

LW - Oh yes.

CF - Where they were, they were cooks and so on and so, but they, they couldn't be there Sunday morning but they could be there Sunday night, so we had two pianists on the ev-' on the, the Su-, Sunday evenings, but we didn't have anybody Sunday mornings, so then they, they had to import one from the, the young, young, younger set from the English department and so, there'd be one for maybe two or three Sundays and then there'd be another one. After a while, well then here comes this one that stayed and, so, so then the, the, I got acquainted with her and, and, so I guess I been there about year and a half or so when I made--had-- my first date with her--

LW - Oh for heavens sake, had--

CF - which resulted in our marriage.

LW - um-hm

CF - Back there in 1935.

LW - So you had to go all the way to New York to find your bride eh? (laughs)

CF - Yup, that's right, yeah, and she's still with me, we're still living together after these years.

LW - It's been happy.

CF - Yeah.

LW - Well, how did you get involved then in the quest for a, um, well first of all maybe you know something about the history of, the Evangelical Free church in Canada, you started--

CF - Yeah, well you see the, the Free, the, the, Evangelical, the first Evangelical Free church that was founded in Canada that's continued that, that was the one in Enchant Alberta.

LW - um-hm

CF - And, I served that church then for, from twenty-eight to thirty-three and then I was able to get a successor there and then I, the fact is that, then I, I got a call from this church in Brooklyn, you see, to come down there, so I went down there, but, that which involved me into, into the work of the church is that, I was invited up to help in the work in Canada even before I went there as a pastor-- (sound of steps)

LW - Is that right?

CF - for some company (??), I'll probably (??) go for, take a leave of absence for about three months (steps creaking) from my church in Oregon and then go up for the summer months and help them, and, so little by little I was getting experience in directing district work you see, so this, this began to, to expand into other areas there in the, in the district and then, after some years why, I was called to be district superintendent and so I, that's how I got involved slowly in the work, and while I was district superintendent that's when I was invited to join this, group here, whether (??) that were, this committee that was, that had the responsibility of establishing this school.

TIME 00:20:10

LW - In Canada.

CF - And, yeah this, the Trinity Western, or I mean, we called it Trinity Junior College for the, for the first few years.

LW - Right--

CF - And we found that the word junior college didn't mean the same up here as it does in the States you see where, so, then we changed it to Western College.

LW - um-hm

CF - But, while I was on that committee we were, one of the things that we had to decide was, what kind of, what kind of school, the nature of the school, what kind of a school are we talking about or should-- (steps banging)

LW - Yes.

CF - we be talking about. Well you know one of those sessions, one of those, trips out here I was all steamed up over the fact that I was going to try to convince our committee that we should establish a college and not some Bible school.

LW - um-hm

CF - See there were other Bible schools one in--

LW - There's lots--

CF - Caronport and one in th-, Three Hills and, and so on, so and, and that which steamed up, got me all steamed up over this, this time was the fact that I had come home from our conference, I think in Winona Lake, and I stopped off at a certain service station in Saskatchewan right by that school, there, were at Briercrest. (buzzer)

LW - Excuse me (??)

CF - And, and-- (buzzer)

CF - there was a one, one young fellow getting his car greased, he had the car--

LW - _____ (??)

CF - the car was up to the _____ (??), while the-- and I knew him, so the, the er, talking to him, he says, "I, I hear that you folks are going to start a school in, in, Canada." Well I said, "We're talking about it." And, so he says, "Well I hope, I hope it will be a college, a Christian college." (people talking in background)

LW - _____ (??)

CF - And then he said, that he had a young fellow here who took his four years of college, or his, no his high school--

LW - um-hm

CF - and then his four yea-, three years of Bible school and then he went off to Saskatoon to the new university there to continue his education and, he wasn't there very many months before he lost his faith completely.

LW - Oh dear.

CF - Yeah, and so he says, that I could see the need of a Christian college and so--

LW - Yes.

CF - that's how I came, when I came down, I thought I don't _____ (??) steamed up over this idea, we got to have a college, we, we, shouldn't fool around with anything else, and you know that's just what, what happened.

LW - I've seen your level of education with Christian--

CF - Yeah.

LW - teachers and--

CF - That's right.

LW - _____ (??)

CF - Yeah, so that's how, so I, I was glad that I at least could have that much to say on that committee you see, _____ (??) to make to that school.

LW - And so you really stuck to your convictions there.

CF - Yeah, yes.

LW - And, and did you find that the rest of the committee was--?

CF - Oh yes, and then, and then after, when I told my story why then--

LW - um-hm

CF - They, they could see, they could see that my, that that's what we should do--

LW - Good.

CF - because some of these had been at, at Prairie to the Bible college, Bible school there you know.

LW - um-um

CF - And so they knew what a school was, what a Bible school was and they, they knew it was no use to duplicate that, you know. (talking in background)

LW - No--especially when they're so close.

[quite loud talking in background; continuing]

CF - And then of course the, we picked out, we, we meant, we meant, we, we came out here to look at this, we heard that this place was for sale.

LW - How did you hear that this property was for sale; was it through a contact?

CF - Well you know, there were some, there some of these fellows (??) that were on the committee and, that were on the committee that lived in this area, so they had evidently heard something, you know, through the grapevine somehow.

LW - um-hm

CF - So then we looked at this and it appealed to us and we recommended that we would, to the--

LW - um-hm

CF - whoever had to deal with it, I suppose it would be like the district board, you know, that has something to do with, with--

LW - The signing?

CF - Yeah _____ (??)

LW - So as a committee you did not, actually make, make the purchase of the land, you just made the recommendations?

CF - Yeah, we were then--

LW - Then someone else--

CF - Yeah, we were then, yeah, we recommended so that, I think it was the, the, the district-- and yet you know there were some of the pastors that were absolutely against the college; have you, have you seen the book, *On The Raw Edge Of Faith*, by--

LW - Yes.

CF - Have you read it?

LW - Yes.

CF - Have you--

LW - Yes.

CF - seen the hard time that he, that, Cal, Cal Hanson had?

LW - Tremendous.

CF - Yeah, some of them were just so off-style that is was, and so uncooperative and, and would try to discourage you know, it was tremendous-- I was surprised we didn't have that reaction in the-- so I lived in Calgary, so I was more acquainted with the pe-- with the sentiment in the, in that district there--

TIME 00:25:08

LW - In the Prairies?

CF - because I was district superintendent, but I, I, the first five years of my district superintendent job was I, I also came out here, and that was part of my responsibility.

LW - I see.

CF - The Pacific--

LW - Of course.

CF - what they--

LW - (speaking at the same time; unintelligible)

CF - call the Pacific district you see.

LW - um-hm

CF - And then I, I, after five years, then, I resigned and, and, continued over there because, then, one, one thing I learned: the harder you work the more places you got, the more places you got, well, well (still talking in background) more work, so you--(laughs)

LW - You figured that one out. (laughs)

CF - Sure so, so then I, I resigned from this one out here, that's when they called Dave Enarson then to-

LW - Oh that's when he came in eh? Do remember what year that was, or?

CF - Yeah, thirty-f-, that was fifty-seven, see I came there.

LW - um-hm

CF - In fifty-two, I'd been there five years it'll be fifty-seven--

LW - um-hm

CF - and, and by June--

LW - When you say--

CF - June fifty-seven that's when, that's when I de-- terminated as the superintendent of this district and--

LW - Where were, which church were you at in nineteen-fifty two?

CF - Well I was traveling on the _____ (??).

LW - Oh, so you were, oh yeah--

CF - (speaking at same time; unintelligible)

LW - so you weren't--

CF - Oh yes.

LW - really in--

CF - Oh yes, I had been, I was called district superintendent back in fifty-one and they wanted me to start it right away but I didn't feel it would be wise because I was, I was pastoring a church in Fargo, North Dakota--

LW - Were you--

CF - and, didn't think it was wise to me, to, to pull out when, when I'm on _____(??) like that and well, well I felt like I should have an extra year to make arrangements for a successor and so, or at least help them with that so, which I did.

LW - um-hm

CF - And so then I, I was living in Taber the first, the first five years that I went to Ca-, then--

LW - Is--

CF - then the--

LW - Taber, Is Taber in Alberta?

CF - Alberta yeah, that's--

LW - Yeah, I think I know of it.

CF - That's about thirty miles east of Lethbridge.

LW - um-hm

CF - And we lived there, see we, I had some friends that had a home there that they were willing to rent out so I, then they, they had bought a more up-to-date home themselves and they've got a successful farm there (??) and so, then we offered this other one that they were moving out of, offered it to me.

LW - How nice (??).

CF - So I lived, we lived there for five years.

LW - I seem to, um-- (creaking steps)

CF - Then the, then, now I was traveling all my, my, prac-, practically all the time you know to survey (??) all the churches.

LW - Between fifty-two and fifty-seven.

CF - Yeah.

LW - um-hm

CF - Well, the fact I, I continued that to sixty--, sixty-seven, I've been (??) superintendent because I, I commented on that one district you see, I just, I just resigned from this district.

LW - Oh.

CF - And I continued on the other district, the other what they call--known as the, the Prairie district you see.

LW - Sure, resigned from the B.C. district--

CF - And then, and then they suggested that I live in Calgary, so I went to Calgary and I bought a hou-, home there and we lived there, lived there, until we moved here in sixty-sev-, in, well we, I, I served at the district there until sixty-seven.

LW - um-hm

CF - So that I, I spent all, all of fifteen years from fifty-two to sixty-seven you see, so-- (steps creaking)

LW - And that was all the Prairie provinces?

CF - Yeah, yeah.

LW - So I guess you were traveling quite a bit then too, really?

CF - Oh yes, I should say it was worse than ever.

LW - um-hm

CF - Because we, we started, first we started a church in Wi-, in Edmonton, and then in Lethbridge, and in, in Medicine Hat, and in Regina.

LW - Goodness.

CF - And so, we were, I was busy, I, I was concentrating on the ci-, on the, on the cities, you see the, when I came there as the district superintendent why, they were a number of churches but they were in small plac-, small towns.

LW - um-hm

CF - There wasn't a single one in a city.

LW - Oh.

CF - And so the work would never get very strong, unless they get into a city and get a, get larger churches and--

LW - Oh, neat (??).

CF - so that's why I saw, I, I saw that in the book of Acts, that's what Paul did, he didn't go to the small places, he went to the real centres.

LW - um-hm

CF - So I followed that same idea, and then it was during, during this time that some of us who were from Canada at the time, we met at the conference down at Winona Lake, and then we decided that we were going to, said we should, we should start thinking in terms of a school in Canada.

LW - um-hm

CF - So I think that there were three or four of us that, that met and said that-- so then we, we, again used our influence with others, you see, that we are to think in those terms.

TIME 00:30:02

LW - um-hm

CF - And so, so then, wasn't long before this came up, I think that by that following year it came in and said-- as a recommendation to the conference, and the conference was to proceed and--

LW - And then you were authorized--

CF - authorize us to take the necessary steps you see and so that's what we did.

LW - I am amazed as I look at the funding for the school that as much of it, almo-, well three-quarters of the funds came from Canada and, I don't know why, I guess I had it in mind that it was largely funded from the United States.

CF - Well, to begin with it was pretty well most of it from the United States.

LW - Is that right, I--

CF - Yeah, yeah, they, I know they, they, when they, conference voted to, to proceed with this which was then, it was, it was, understood that the, whoever was the representative you know, like the Cal Hanson, when we called him you see to be the, the, one who was _____ (??) the sch-, school.

LW - um-hm

CF - Why, then he wa-, he was, was better acquainted, you know, the States and the churches down, than he was up, up--

LW - Oh yes...

CF - here at the time, you see.

LW - Yes, so, and he would try to raise funds of course in the United States I suppose.

CF - Yeah, so then I'm sure that, that at, at the begin, those be-, beginning years where it was the--

LW - I—

TIME 00:31:37

END OF SIDE A

TIME 00:00:00 (TT 00:31:37)

LW - --five thousand from the United States and seventy-five thousand or, something from Canada.

CF - No--

LW - No that was at the beginning, towards the purchase of the land.

CF - Oh, oh I see yeah because there were cert- some of these individuals that, were-- lived around here that were on the committee that, that had a, pretty, pretty good oppor- or pretty good heart and were wanting to see this thing real- realized, and they may have dug down deep for that. (footsteps on stairs; background noise)

LW - We're close to the stairs here. And--uh--

CF - So then, that gives out totally (??) gives a li-, little bit about (??) my background you see as--

LW - um-hm

CF - as to, this, this, founding committee that we were, that I was on. (whispering)

LW - I was really interested in, in that. Now I think I know now how the committee got together then and it was mainly that you-- that it was a meeting of minds that felt the same.

CF - Yeah, that's right.

LW - That there should be a school in Canada.

CF - Yeah, that's right.

LW - And then you brought it as a proposal to the next conference.

CF - Yeah, that's, yeah, yeah that's right.

LW - um-hm

CF - So, that, and that, that went through, I was, was surprised that it was such little, little resistance, you know, that we actually had no resistance to speak of at all, you know.

LW - Well do you think that because Trinity in the United States was quite a going concern at the time?

CF - Yeah, and then, you see, another thing was that with the border being there, why it made it more difficult for students to go here, or go to the--

LW - From (??)

CF - States--

LW - Yes.

CF - to the schools down there because of the, of the restrictions with the, with the job situation and so on, and the--

LW - And they wanted the work (??)

CF - --the only place that they could, the Canadians would work would be if they needed somebody on, on the campus there that had a job, oh, for them on the campus, because they couldn't get a job, they had, they had to apply to the, the immigration, you see, to get permission to work, if there was any work, but then you see they couldn't take the job of a Ca-, of an American you see.

LW - _____ (??), it was even that the same then eh?

CF - So that was one of things that it dictated to us, that we needed a school in Canada.

LW - um-hm, that's interesting. I can see that being almost a major, reason um--

CF - Yeah, and then you see, it was, it was more favorable towards the Americans to come up here because they got that exchange, favour--

LW - Yes, that's right.

CF - more favourable exchange on their money you see that--

LW - um-hm, in those days, I think it was almost close to ten percent at times.

CF - Yeah, and now it's twenty-five percent.

LW - Yeah. Well that's interesting, and um, as far as how the development of the school has come along, slowly but surely, and yet in a way I look at it as a stranger, and I think it's been fairly rapid development--

CF - Sure.

LW - you know, considering aft-, especially after you've read, *The Raw Edge Of Faith*, and you can see all the-- (sound on steps)

CF - Yeah, the, *The Raw*--the, well you know Cal Hanson just seemed to be tailor-made for the job.

LW - He was, wasn't he.

CF - You know, he went, he went out, sent out by the Free church as a missionary to Japan.

LW - um-hm

CF - And you know he practically lost his family there through, through an accident you know, they were in these Japanese baths you see, there's something that went wrong, so that they were just, they were beginning, to be, they were, they were becoming exposed to the gas, you know and almost asphyxiated.

LW - Oh

CF - And Missus Hanson was—see, the kids were small then-- and somehow or other she seemed to realize that there was some-- why she was getting so woozy or something.

LW - um-hm

CF - So that, that's where she g-, was able to get 'em up before, before it got too far, and ev-, and yet, and yet she suffered for some years herself before she got over the effects of, of the gassing.

LW - um-hm

CF - So then you see that he became available--

LW - um-hm

CF - you know, a, as, as a, to take over this work, fact he was, he was called to be pastor of one of our churches in Minneapolis. (sound on steps)

LW - Oh, was he.

CF - And so he was serving there and then he was called from there up here, and--I remember how, how some of us worked on him you know, that we--

LW - um-hm

CF - that we just felt he must come up here.

LW - You must really have worked on him.

CF - Thou art, thou art the man, and so--so then--

LW - Is that how you also worked on Doctor Snider?

CF - What's that?

LW - Is that how you worked on Doctor Snider? (laughs)

CF - Well you see by that time I had nothing to do with it.

LW - Oh you didn't.

CF - No, no, well I was out of it then, I was just in that, in that founding committee and then you see, I concentrated my efforts in the Prairie district you see.

TIME 00:05:01 (TT 00:36:38)

LW - um-hm

CF - And--

LW - Did you know Doctor Snider when he came?

CF - Well no--

LW - (speaking at the same time; unintelligible)

CF - I didn't know him, I didn't, I didn't, I didn't, I just heard of him you see, they, somebody, told me about him, that he's a Canada, Canadian and, and he's had his schooling and so, eh, that's, that's a, that's all they needed here, _____ (??).

LW - And--

CF - _____ (??)

LW - Doctor Hanson had, was feeling by that time that he would like to leave.

CF - That could be, that could be.

LW - I think--

CF - (speaking at the same time; unintelligible)

LW - I think he mentioned--

CF - Fif-

LW - that in a book.

CF - Fifteen, fifteen years I think he had _____ (??)

LW - Yes, yes.

CF - And, well you know, when you think of the way it was at to begin with, what--

LW - Well that's right

CF - no, no cooperation--

LW - The trials (??)

CF - and not only no cooperation but, sort of hostility that he ran into with some of our pastors.

LW - Can you give us any reason for that?

CF - Well, well, I think they, they, some of them were so imbued with Prairie and, and some of these, some of these sch-, schools, Bible schools, you know independent schools, they were independent in their, in their, in their thinking.

LW - I see.

CF - And so it took, eh, took us qui-, quite a while to convert these men so that they became--

LW - _____ (??)

CF - in, integrated with us here.

LW - um-hm (sound of steps)

CF - And I knew, I knew all about it, was I, I had, I had my hands full with some of them.

LW - um-hm

CF - Myself I had to work on them.

LW - um-hm

CF - To, when it came to that time. And you know the man that district superintendent here now, Ron Swanson?

LW - Yes.

CF - Can you imagine the years that I had to work on him, to get him to, to consent to be a pastor?

LW - Is that right?

CF - Oh yeah.

LW - Well, was he, he was trained to be a pastor then or--?

CF - Well, he, he had his training in Three Hills, and then he went to our school and, and finished his college then, in Trinity College, in--

LW - Oh, in Deerfield.

CF - Yeah, well you see the, the emphasis at the college was so different from Bible school, it was so, you know, they, they had that, that independent--

LW - um-hm

CF - --attitude and it, and when they'd been in, in that atmosphere for so long and it sort of gets, gets into their blood.

LW - um-hm

CF - And so, I saw when I got acquainted with him, with him, I saw he has, he has a timbre (??) pastoral timbre (??), so I began to work on him.

LW - um-hm

CF - And I--

LW - Good for you.

CF - And I got him to take our church in Medicine Hat. I was, I had, I had been gone there for about nine months there myself starting in the work you know, and by this time I felt that we needed to have a full time pastor down there, and so when I presented him to them he came there, they, they were, they liked him, they wanted to call him, so they, they called him--he stayed until the church was dedicated and I was there that day when the church was dedicated and the new building, we got the, the new building up you know, and then he resigned, and I said, Ron I can't understand this--

LW - um-hm

CF - I said, "Now if you had been a failure," I said, "then of course it'd be different," but I said, "You have, you have been a success and you have all the earmarks of a pastor."

LW - um-hm

CF - And so within a moment he had his mind set, he was going to go and run his father's farm.

LW - Oh yes.

CF - So he, well I guess he was the only boy in the family you see and--

LW - um-hm, there might have been some family pressure too--

CF - What's that?

LW - There might have been some--

CF - There might have been--

LW - --family pressure. (both talking at once)

CF - There may have been, and yet I, as I've come to know his Dad I don't think he put too much pressure on him.

LW - um-hm

CF - Ah, that is unless, if he, if, if he, if he wanted to be doing the Lord's work, but no, that's what he wanted to do. He told me that. So then--

LW - um-hm

CF - I don't remember how long it was that he tried to run that farm, if it was one year or two years. But at any rate they lived down there at, at New Norway (??), on the farm there, and I'd been there, in their home quite a few times in the course of these years, and, and so, when, I, yeah I had gotten two pastors, they, the, you know the first, first pastor had stayed so long, and then, then, and then I had to get another one so I got an- another pastor to take it over and which, which, which I succeeded in and they were both well, well, qualified and well liked, and then the one was from the States and so he decided to go back there to do pastor work so he, he left Canada and that, that left a vacancy there. And so this is just about the time that he moved up to the farm; so then, of course, who would, who would they, they get to help them when they, when they needed a pastor, and so if- little by little, why he got sort of pushed into the work again, and--

TIME 00:10:07 (TT 00:41:44)

LW - And I bet you were praying.

CF - Of course I wasn't at all, at all averse to that, but took a while before he sort of found himself.

LW - um-hm

CF - And I, I can see, you see he, he thought that, or he got the impression that when he was at Trinity College he said that that these, that these students down there they just seem to have their eye on the money, they wanted a good salary and you see, there, they, that was frowned upon at Three Hills.

LW - Oh yes.

CF - No, no they were not supposed to have any salary you know.

LW - um-hm

CF - At that time, you know that was--

LW - um-hm

CF - So that they, then I, I could understand how some of these things then, then you know, they, the churches needed, needed funds then, so he thought by running, helping run the farm that he could help put money into--

LW - Sure.

CF - the treasury in, in the district.

LW - um-hm

CF - So, I certainly worked on him to get him to consent.

LW - And now he's district--

CF - Now he's district superintendent

LW - He took your job away almost. (laughs)

CF - So--

LW - Isn't that funny.

CF - Yeah, well anyway, I, I saw that, that he, he would be a success no-- if you-- no matter where we put him, but he didn't know that, so I mean there was, there was no pride there at all.

LW - No.

CF - Just the opposite; he didn't want to, he didn't feel that he was, he was qualified, and he was, he was more than qualified.

LW - Those are nice words. Is there anyone else that you remember, when-- you knew Doctor Hanson quite well?

CF - Yeah, yes, I knew Ha, Hanson, see, I, in 1970 I, I was called to the church in White Rock as an interim pastor; fact is I told them I would only consider it on an interim basis because I had let the, our district superintendents know that, that I would become available as supply pastor or, interim pastor so I didn't want to, to tie myself down permanently in pl-, in any place, so I, went to, when I came out here in 1970 I came out here in September and by August the following year, why, they hadn't gotten a pastor yet. So I told them all that, that, you'll have to get moving here to get somebody because I, I'm going to leave, I said. I, I rented out my house for so, so long, long time in Calgary and, and so the plan is to go back there and, we were going to live back there, so we went back there and I took, I got my son who is a schoolteacher there in Seattle, got him to come up here and, he, he's very handy at, at decorating, and so I had him help me to redecorate the house you know, and _____ (??), and (background noise) while we, we, when we got that done, then, then he left us, then my wife said, why don't we move up there to the coast, now, rather than live up, live here with a climate as cold. (fan noise?)

LW - um-hm

CF - See, we had lived here this- almost a year you see, so we, we saw the difference, and that surprised me that she would say that because she had been complaining the last two or three months about the fact that every time she was going to do any baking or anything well then, all the stuff that she had was assembled you see, from different, from different homes you see so, so she then had all these-- what she wanted was she, it'd be, it'd be nice, when we, when we get home where we have all, all our own stuff you know.

LW - um-hm

CF - And so--

LW - She probably wasn't looking forward to another move? (laughs)

CF - What's that?

LW - She probably didn't need another move eh?

CF - No, so then--

LW - But yet she did, she wanted to.

CF - But then that's what we decided we'll do that, we'll come out here why then, then, there was, there were opportunities for interim work out here.

LW - um-hm

CF - And I spent some years at it--until I got my heart attack about a year, a year, a year ago last May

LW - um-hm

CF - And that-- I terminated everything, but now I be-- I, I, the last six or eight months I have just sat (??) like myself again and I--

LW - Oh isn't that--

CF - --just as soon--

LW - --excellent.

CF - --you know I continue this way, well I guess it'd be temptation for me not to consider pastor, short term pastor.

LW - um-hm, well--

CF - Well this--

TIME 00:14:47 (TT 00:46:23)

END OF SIDE B

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