

Dr. Laird was pastor of. He'd only been there a few years before on account of the Independent Board and he came out and met in a little Methodist church. But there was a woman who was very devoted to Dr. Laird's teaching who taught a S.S. class in the church. Her son, a lawyer, never came to church at all. She was very concerned about that. When they came out he pled with his mother saying, Don't go out and leave the denomination and go with that little group that's meeting down there in that place. He said, If you'll stay, I'll do anything in the world that you want me to. He said, I'll come to church regularly, if you want. He said, I'll teach a S.S. class; I'll do anything if only you'll stay. She felt it was the only way she could win her son and so she stayed.

I never heard her name. Only heard the story second hand, but am quite certain it is so. An institution gets well established and it gets a prestige and standing. People, professional people and people who have a certain amount of money like to keep in that sort of organization. In most of the good sound new church that I know of that have been started in recent years, they have very few professional people--most of them. Very sad because they are people with big influence, tremendous influence and contacts ~~xxx~~ with many people. But with many of them the pull of the prestige seems so great. Even some very earnest Christian people.

Anyway they came out with some fine earnest Christian people, but the substantial backbone of the Third Church stayed in the old church and continued for a time having sound preaching. They got men who were professors from Dallas who were on leave of absence (people like that) and the same way in the First and Central Church. They had people who were quite sound for a while. I don't know how long that continued.

But even before the Independent Board matter came up Dr. McIntire and Dr. Laird were having a very tough time with some of the modernists there in the presbytery and he was telling me just last year reminiscing about a time when a pastor of one of the other sizeable churches in town once invited him to exchange pulpits and he said to the man, I'd be very glad to preach in your pulpit but I could not have you preach in my pulpit because you are an Auburn Affirmationist. And the Auburn Affirmation had over 1000 ministers who signed saying they did not believe in verbal inspiration. And they said the ~~question~~ that the question whether ~~was~~ Jesus worked miracles or was virgin born, that some of these particular theories some of us believe these, some of us don't but we don't think they are essential.

But the one thing they definitely denied was the full authority of the Word. This man hated ~~in~~ Dr. Laird and had a big part in helping to get him out of his church. Two yrs. later this man came to see Laird because between the two churches, fairly near to each, they wanted to start a liquor store and he wanted to get a petition that the liquor store not be allowed so near the churches. He said, I'm glad there is one thing Dr. Laird and I still cooperate on!