

They have built a real organization. Have gotten a fine seminary and fine college and built a denomination that is getting up toward 20,000 people which while it is not great is not tiny. It's much bigger than the OPC which had a 20 year start on them.

As I talk to some of their older men who were trained under me I find some of them feeling rather sad about the way that some of their influences have gone. I think one of the big reasons is that as they got out and began to build up and expand, that they proceeded -- they would not have anything to do with us, of course, so they proceeded to take in young fellows from Westminster. And they got influences among them which have not made them anything like what Westminster is now, but yet which have changed the orientation to the point where some of their older men are a bit sad about the way they have gone.

There again you can't help thinking that perhaps my influence would have been enough to have kept them ~~xxx~~ more like FTS was before they went; more like what we are now. I don't know. So there is another case where in the pressure of circumstances I did not have a great deal of choice. But as I look back I wonder if it might not have been much better if it had gone the other way.

Then the next big turning point was when we started here. We lost contact with a lot of alumni and we face a financial problem which is far more severe than anything we had before. Yet it's been a very happy experience these 8 years here-- as happy as anything in my life. Though no happier than my first 8 years at Faith, but just as happy I think. Of course I was in a situation there where I had no choice. It was either do this, or stay there with no power, no influence and a chance to ~~xxxxx~~ write my books quietly and I could have done that and enjoyed it, if I would not have the feeling I was sure the thing within 2 years would have been utterly different from what I wanted it to be.

For me to have sat there and seen that happen-- I could not have done that. So that list of these turning points I felt was maybe worth suggesting, and that may suggest something to you worthwhile too.