

directly from Scripture instead of going thru the hands of several removed from the Scripture. It is amazing how many institutions and groups there are that say they believe the Bible and then constantly talk about what they have heard from other human beings or from books written by other humans instead of what they have gotten from the Bible themselves.

The Internat. Conference on Biblical Inerrancy (that I was to give you an update on) was founded in 1977. It was the brain-child of a Dr. James Grimstead of Oakland, Calif. Dr. Grimstead was a graduate of Fuller Seminary. He read Lindsell's books and saw the various attitudes toward the Bible. He studied the latter and came to realize the importance of inerrancy. I heard him say shortly after the organization was founded that it was only during the previous six years that he had come to believe in inerrancy. He saw its tremendous importance. He was a man of tremendous vision and he saw the need of getting the Lord's people to stress this matter. He got some people together and formed an organization in which his plan was that they should get together and study all the facets of inerrancy and see the attacks made upon it and how it could be answered and find ways of getting information on these matters out to the world, and spreading it by conferences, by meetings, by books and then after 10 years the organization could be dissolved because then our work would have been accomplished!

That last statement shows he was a visionary because Satan cannot be defeated in 10 years. It's an ongoing battle to the end. But in the ten years in which the organization exists if plans are carried out I believe substantial progress can be made.

I think it was a good idea to get Christians who differ on many points, who felt that certain things were important that other equally good Christians did not think important, to get together and overlook such differences because of a common danger--the attack on Scripture. Because of a common danger--the attempts to undermine our confidence in Scripture. To get together and put a force behind it of making plain before the world the importance of the matter of inerrancy and the clear evidence it is true.

So in 1977 the organization was founded and some individuals were found who could give money enough to get it moving rather nicely, and they decided to hold a summit meeting which was held the fall of 1977. The purpose of this summit meeting was to not to get together to argue about inerrancy! It was not to be a \_\_\_\_\_ . This particular meeting was for the purpose of getting a clear agreement of what we mean by inerrancy. Therefore they had selected a council of about 10 people and an advisory council of about 25. Members of both of these councils were asked to recommend people to attend this summit meeting as they called it, a meeting to prepare a statement about inerrancy. We were told to recommend anyone whom we felt would be an asset to the meeting. But do not recommend anybody whom you are not sure believes in inerrancy, because this is not a meeting for confrontation. This is a meeting for consultation. So the people were carefully picked but picked from people who differ greatly on many points of theological viewpoint, but men who agreed on the great basic doctrines of Scripture and in inerrancy.