

He said, We think that the statement that has been given at present that copies of it should be made, given to all and studied for six months and discuss it by correspondence and eventually come to an agreement of the statement to be made! That might be interesting to do that. I doubt if they could get unity on it by that method~~x~~, and it would make no impact on the world. Most of the leaders were rather discouraged when this attitude was taken. Someone said Let's have a vote on it. They said, We're not meeting as a group now to take a vote, but let's have a straw vote.

They said, How many want to do that? And maybe one in 20 raised their hands. How many think the statement as we have worked it out now is something that we could agree to, and ~~ix~~ most of the people raised their hands. And it was evident that the group had arrived at a unanimity on a statement which would show false ideas we don't accept, what we really mean by inerrancy, and that this statement taken from many different groups of Christians who were ready to agree on this.

So out of 268 people who were present at the meeting, papers were put out on tables to sign if you wished to. When it was over they counted the names of those who signed and they found 250 out of the 268 had signed the statement! I believe that the Congress Statement as it was called is a good, clear statement of what Christians really believe about inerrancy, and the false interpretations which we do not accept.

So I think the thinking of this statement was a real step forward for the cause of Christ. After the meeting in addition to this they had meetings in which they invited individuals to give talks on certain assigned subjects and then and then those present had risen and discussed it. They had taken visuals that could be shown in different places. They had various statements which were made in this way and they were planning to issue pamphlets and books and quite a number have been prepared. Some men were very well able to do things things that are worthwhile and they have made an attempt to distribute them widely.

Shortly before the end of the meeting there was one of these groups at which some said we should have a discussion of the matter of hermeneutics. Hermeneutics is the science of interpreting Scripture. There was a feeling that it is tremendously important that we go into this matter of hermeneutics--what is== are the principles involved in it? So it was said we will plan to have another such conference at which we will have a disussion of hermeneutics. That was planned for a couple of years later.

About a year and a half after that meeting I attended a meeting of the Advisory Board ? At that meeting I was greatly interested in the reports that were brought. I was particularly interested in the reports brought by the Southern Baptist, an organization that has grown in the last 50 years perhaps faster and larger than any other large denomination proportionately in the U.S. There was one man whom I had met in the committee preparing the NIV, named Dr. Walkers, a man who believed