

We were speaking about our leaving Westminster and starting Faith. Since we moved to Wilmington I think it would be good to say a word about Dr. Harold S. Laird. He was Secretary of the Board of Westminster from its start. He was a wonderful Christian man, a marvellous preacher. During the 15 years we were at Wilmington the opportunity our students had to attend his services, and faculty too was an inestimable benefit. I mentioned to you how Dr. Laird was invited to become President of the Board, to join and be its president, but he declined because he was just then moving churches and he did not want having been invited and accepted to have a change made in his situation right at that time before he was there and could talk it over with the people of his church. So he went to the church. He felt it was a great evidence of their willingness to have him and listen to him and get the Scripture from him that when he said he would not come unless they did away with the smoking room in the church, they did away with it.

I think the property of that church was worth over a million dollars, and they had endowments of several million. They had been accustomed to having pretty conservative preachers. Dr. Laird of course was an out and out evangelical preacher. After he'd been there a short time he talked with the elders and he got their agreement to his joining the IBPFPM. He was later elected president. Dr. Laird had only been there a brief time when the action was taken by the General Assembly against the members of the IBPFPM. Meantime Dr. Laird had been trying to get control of the endowment of the church in order that he could give a great deal of it to missions. Each year he was able to get rid of one or two of those trustees who wanted to keep the money as a permanent endowment and get men in