

I had to be away the last half of last week and did not finish (grading) the tests though very substantial progress has been made in marking them. I had a very worthwhile time in Chicago, extremely busy, many meetings. Three hundred people, most of them rather prominent in Christian work. People from a number of different denominational viewpoints from many parts of the country. I met some I had not seen for 20 years and had many interesting contacts. At the end they signed a statement which was hammered out -- a statement about eight pages long -- which was hammered out with many different sections with different ones discussing, with one group and another, and then all together. Two or three men worked all night on it a couple of nights. So I believe it's a very fine statement.

Question: You say all 300 signed the statement?

I had to leave to catch my plane before the end, and I don't know just how many signed it yet. I did sign it before I left, but those I have heard from have said that most signed it. But I am just not sure. I hope they did. In some of the discussions you wondered if anybody would sign it, because people were fussing about little points, but when it came to the end I think there was a pretty good consensus. Of course it was not dealing with anything but inerrancy. But inerrancy is a matter that has to be carefully defined or you can infer other things that you don't mean.

For instance there is a big disagreement about the matter of dictation. There are people who think that God dictated the whole Bible. There are other people who think that the worst thing we could suggest is such an awful thing that God dictated it. Well, I've dictated to a secretary and that's no reason God couldnot have dictated if He chose! But we don't believe He did because we see such evidence of personality of the different writers. Yet certainly some of it was dictated like the ten commandments. God spoke these words.

So to make a statement that would avoid misunderstanding and wouldnot err this direction or the other was difficult, but I think a good job was done.

Question: Be able to get copies of the statement?

I hope so. I hope it will be given wide publicity. But it is a long statement and what they were afraid of was that people would pick out a sentence here or there and might give the wrong impression, so great care was taken to avoid that possibility. I know that Satan's people are veryclever at misrepresenting things. I just hope that nothing is quoted in a way that would give a different impression from what is meant. I'm sure the wholething will be made available.

Student: Dr. Newman put a copy of it on our bulletin board this morning.

Very good. That's fine. It went through several editions, and there was a great deal of discussion. Just about every word of it was carefully studied. It is very well written too.