BEACON LIGHTS

FOR PROTESTANT REFORMED YOUTH

VOLUME XLVIII NUMBER 7

August - September 1989

SHOCK TREATMENT

Published monthly (except June-July and August-September are combined by the Federation of Protestant Reformed Young People's Societies.

EXECUTIVE BOARD
President - Greg Holstege
Vice-President - Jay Kalsbeek
Secretary - Jory Kalsbeek
Treasurer - Randy Corson
Librarian - Sherri Huizenga
Vice-Secretary - Sharon Hanko
Vice-Treasurer - Todd Feenstra
Youth Coordinator - Dan Schipper
Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Gritters
Rev. Dykstra

BEACON LIGHTS STAFF
Editor-in-Chief - David Harbach
Associate Editors - John Faber

Finance Manager - Doug Dykstra
Secretary - Ruth Bleyenberg
Brenda Holstege, Lisa Van Koevering, Thelma Westra

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Mrs. H. Brands, Rev. C. Hanko, Rev. R. Harbach, Rev. J. Heys, Bernie Kamps, Rev. D. Kuiper, Dave Rau, Rev. C. Terpstra, Deane Wassink

EDITORIAL OFFICE: David Harbach
4930 Ivanrest Ave. S.W., Apt. B
Grandville, MI 49418

NEWS EDITOR: Ruth Bleyenberg
661 Cloverdale, Grand Rapids,
MI 49504

ADDRESS CHANGE: POSTMASTER:
Joel Zandstra, 6157 Balsam Dr.,
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Second Class Postage paid at Jenison, MI (USPS046-840)

EDITORIAL POLICY
The articles of **Beacon Lights** do not necessarily indicate the viewpoint of the Editorial Staff. Every author is solely responsible for the contents of his own article.
If any material of **Beacon Lights** is reprinted by another periodical, we will appreciate your giving the source.
The **Beacon Lights** is available on cassette tape. Write to Dirk Westra, 1880 Elizabeth Lane, Jenison 49428.

Scholarship Fund Treasurer - Howard Pastoor, 5511 Bauer Rd., Hudsonville, MI 49426

COLLECTIONS: Doug Dykstra
2846 Vermont, Grandville, MI 49418
Subscription Price $5.00

SUBSCRIPTION DUES: MICHIGAN
Lisa Van Koevering
3810 100th Ave., Zeeland, MI 49464
OUTSIDE MICHIGAN: Pam Kuiper
4127 40th Ave.
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Contents

Editor's Notes - August / September - David Harbach 1
Shock Treatment - Rev. Barry Gritters 3
TRUTH VS. ERROR
IV. Infant Baptism and the Gospel - Rev. Robert C. Harbach 6
What's Happened! - Ruth Bleyenberg.....9

EDITOR'S NOTES: August/September

by David Harbach

Fresh off the press! **The Implications of Public Confession** by Abraham Kuyper is now ready for your reading and study. A copy of this stimulating work is being sent to each of our Consistories for their perusal. Some of our readers have already indicated to me that they would like a copy of this excellent work. You will have to wait, however, until we have set the book price.

We are nearing completion on printing the series of articles on the Fruit of the Spirit. The title of the book will be **Jesus' Beauty Shining In You**. Jeff Steenholt of our Kalamazoo Church will be producing the artwork for the cover and title page. Expected completion of this project will be sometime this fall or early winter.

In this issue, Article IV. Infant Baptism and the Gospel continues the discussion about baptism with the imaginary Pastor Muller, Catechumen Charles Fessler and Charles' Baptist friend, Melvin Rausch. Rev. Harbach gives us several passages of Scripture which show that infant baptism is no sin. We are thankful to God that Rev. Harbach is able to write articles for the B.L. even though he has Parkinson's disease.

Rev. Barry Gritters sent me his chapel speech titled, "Shock Treatment", that he gave at Covenant Christian High School. He did this at the request of Barb Bergman. In the cover letter Rev. Gritters sent to me, he states, "Perhaps this could be another steady source of articles for the magazine. I can imagine that some speakers would think that if their speeches were published, they wouldn't be able to use them again. But for

high school chapel speeches, you use them only once, since there is only one high school (in the Grand Rapids area, DH). . . ." We agree wholeheartedly with Rev. Gritters and hope that other ministers will send us their high school chapel speeches.

Ruth Bleyenberg provides us further news about our churches. Ruth will also be taking on the responsibility of secretary because Karen Vink, our former secretary, has resigned to further her education. We express our deep appreciation to Karen for the hard work that she did for our young people's magazine and pray that God's blessings be on her further studies. We also want to thank Ruth for willingly taking on this important responsibility.

The work of secretary is not always easy, especially when many phone calls need to be made to find a writer for an article, to find a new writer for a rubric, or to remind writers to send in their articles. Too often, the secretary must report that none of the suggested writers agreed to write or that a writer forgot to write an article. We hope that as Ruth begins her new duties as secretary that she will find her work enjoyable. And for those who are writers or have written articles, we thank God for you and your generous efforts.

Rev. Rawson from Barnsley, England, who sent in an order for Reformed Education, Christian Liberty, and Leaving Father and Mother, also provided a poem titled "My Bible and I." Does anyone know the author of this poem? If I'm not mistaken there is a song titled "My Bible and I" but I'm not sure if the words are the same. Maybe one of our readers can provide us with further information about the poem and/or the song.

Love in the creature ever presupposeth some good, true or apparent in the thing loved, by which the affection of union is drawn. But the love of God on the contrary, causeth all good to be produced in the creature. He first loveth us in the free purpose of His Will, and thence worketh good for us and in us. And hence come the unchangeableness of God's love towards us, because it is founded in Himself, and in the stableness of the good pleasure of His own Will. And although we may be comforted as we observe our love to Him; yet it is far greater comfort drawn from the consideration of His love to us; as being not only the ground of the other, but in Him also infinite, and unchangeable. And, hereupon, it was that the sisters of Lazarus seeking help for their sick brother sent Christ word, not that he, who loved Him, but that "he whom He loved, was sick."

John Robinson

SHOCK TREATMENT

by Rev. Barry Gritters

I'm sure that all of you have read of, somewhere, or seen on television, this scene: A man is brought into the hospital emergency room having suffered a heart attack, or having been under water for some time. The frantic doctors and nurses are doing everything they can for the man - artificial respiration, injection of drugs, testing and so forth - but nothing works. Finally, as a last resort, they take two disk shaped objects with handles on them, rub them together with a conducting element and, after having called "CLEAR", send an electrical shock through his body that jolts the heart back to action.

It was a **severe remedy** for a **dreadful predicament.**

This same kind of treatment formerly was used for mental disorders. Doctors and psychologists would not be able to treat a man or woman suffering from a mental illness and, as a last resort (although for awhile this was almost standard treatment), they would take an electrical current and send it through the brain, trying to shock whatever was wrong out of the mind.

Again, a **radical cure** for a **dreadful predicament.**

I'd like to use those illustrations as reference points for the spiritual truth that I want you to hear: God sometimes treats us shockingly to jolt our spiritual hearts into action, or to bring our thinking back on track.

During the time of the judges in the Old Testament, this was a common occurrence. Israel was in the land of Canaan, living in the fear of God, but soon strayed. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. To remedy that, God used the shocking treatment of sending another nation to chasten them, so that their spiritual heart would beat again, and their spiritual thinking would come back on track.

The same was true in the later history of Israel. When Israel was under the kings, she wandered farther and father from God. All the while God was speaking to her through the prophets, Elijah and Elisha, Isaiah and Jeremiah, and others, calling them to return. But they would not hearken. So first He sent them the shock of two famines: a famine of rain and food, and a famine of the Word. Finally God used the shocking treatment of bringing them into captivity before their spiritual senses were jolted and they heard the Word of God.

But we don't need only biblical illustrations for us to know the truth of that method of God's dealings with His people. About 8 years ago, some of your older brothers and sisters, cousins or friends, were snowmobiling together. One of the snowmobilers was Rick Miedema. And before the day was out,

God took Rick Miedema to Himself.

And everybody was saying, "What a shock! I can't believe it! I'm numb! I don't know what to say."

Just one year ago, the school was jolted again when, before school began, Rosy Rau was called home. What a shock!! What a severe treatment!! What a message of God!!! We couldn't believe it was really true. And you sat at the funeral and said to yourselves, "Is it really true, or am I just dreaming?"

Well, you say, "God spoke a year ago, and God spoke 8 years ago. But He's not today. So why bring this up now?" Well, I bring this up today because God still speaks to us, shockingly. When we remember the dates of those events, we are reminded again that God speaks in unusual ways.

• • • • • • • • •

It was January 13, 1973. I was a Senior in High School. It was soccer season, and we had a league game that evening. My best friend, Myron Kamper, and I went to his house after school, because Ontario was 35 or 40 miles from my home in Redlands, CA. After washing our cars that afternoon, we headed back to school for the game. It was a good game and everything was normal, until, after he had passed the ball to me up the middle and I headed toward the goal, no one was challenging me, but instead looking back behind me. Myron was on the ground, not moving. The coaches rushed out to the field; the ambulance was called; we used cardio-pulmonary resucitation; and he was brought by ambulance to the hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

SHOCK TREATMENT!!

And every time January 13 comes around, I can't help but hear God speak again to me. (And it was pretty close to January 13 that Mr. Vermeer called up to speak for you at chapel today.)

It wasn't but six weeks later when another friend, driving home late one Friday night from his girlfriend's house in San Diego, fell asleep in his car and missed a curve in the road. The next morning police found a pile of melted metal at the base of a huge oak tree.

SHOCK TREATMENT!!

God speaks through these "shock treatments."

God's hand is in each of these events. God brought Myron Kamper to the grave with myo-carditus on the soccer field. God brought the other young man to the grave in a pile of crushed and melted metal. God brought Rick Miedema to the grave through a snowmobile accident; and God brought Rosy Rau to the grave.

God speaks, shockingly, through these things.

I want to qualify this for a moment. God may say something **different** in each of these incidents. God may speak for a different purpose to one person than He does to another, through the same event. God may speak in chastisement to some because of a particular sin. God may speak to others generally to bring them closer to Him. Nevertheless, God is speaking to us.

But God speaks to you because He loves you. He doesn't speak to people He doesn't love. He speaks because He loves you.

Now, God speaks to you through the preaching of the gospel. Every Sunday God speaks to you through your pastor. Every Monday night at catechism, God speaks to you. God speaks to you through your parents and teachers. Every day He talks to you at

school here. And He speaks to you because He loves you.

But sometimes we don't listen. Sometimes we don't listen to God in the preaching, or through our parents, or through our teachers. And when we don't listen, then sometimes God shouts to us to jolt us to our spiritual senses, to shock our minds back on the spiritual track of godliness and right thinking.

So I tell you, friends, because I love you, listen when God speaks to you **quietly.**

God speaks to us through the Word: **LOVE ME**, live close to me, make your life a life of prayer and service. And the Lord tells you that through the preaching and through parents and through teachers every week. Because they love you, they encourage you to live in sweet communion with God. But sometimes we don't listen. We drift farther and farther away. Our spiritual hearts grow weaker and weaker and our spiritual senses grow duller. Until finally God shouts, as it were, through a death or through some other traumatic experience, "I'm teaching you to count your days, and set your hearts on wisdom's ways."

God speaks to us through the word: **BE CHASTE!! FLEE FORNICATION!! BE A VIRGIN!!** And God speaks that to you regularly. Through the preaching of the seventh commandment, you hear that at least every couple of years. I hope more. God speaks through your parents and your teachers. A couple of weeks ago, Rev. Key was here to speak about that. Are you listening, young people? I pray that you are listening, because I pray that God will not have to shock you to your senses, to get your spiritual heart beating again, through your pregnancy or the pregnancy of a friend. Or through the complete loss of your self worth and dignity.

God speaks to you through the word: **BE SOBER!! BE NOT DRUNK WITH WINE, BUT BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT!!** God says that to you through your parents, your teachers, and your pastor. Alcohol abuse is sin. Drug use is sin. Will it take the shock of addiction, or arrest, or jail, to shock you into your senses that God speaks to you!? Do you know what the inside of Kent County Jail looks like? Do you know what addiction to drugs feels like? Do you know what arrest and your name in the paper does?

I pray for you. You don't know how I pray for you!

I pray that God will give you ears to hear Him speak. I pray that God will not have to shock you to your senses. That's not pleasant. If He does, remember, "Whom the Lord loves, he chastens."

Every year God speaks to me on January 13, and long after that.

God is still speaking to you! Remember Myron Kamper. Remember my other friend. Remember Rick Miedema. Remember Rosy Rau. For through them, though they are dead. God yet speaks.

He loves you. Listen to Him!

For to believe in the forgiveness of sins through Christ is the highest article of our faith. And it is true that whoever believes this article has the forgiveness of sins.

- Martin Luther (on Psalm 2)

Truth Vs. Error
IV. INFANT BAPTISM AND THE GOSPEL

by Rev. Robert C. Harbach

Note: This is Article IV in the series: I. Immersion in the Baptism Form, II. Incorporation Into Christ, III. Immersion, Children and the Lexicons. A discussion follows between Rev. Johann Muller, Catechumen Charles Fessler, and Charles' Baptist friend, Melvin Rausch.

Rev. Muller: The topic of our discussion and theme of our lesson today is, **Infant Baptism and the Gospel**. Melvin has another little tract to show us, which ought to make us smile. Tell us about it, Melvin.

Melvin: The Berachah church I used to attend maintained that there is not one word in Scripture commanding Infant Baptism. They issued this little tract, bookmark size, and on one side in bold capital letters it reads, WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT INFANT BAPTISM? (see other side). The reverse side is blank. So the answer is: **Nothing!**

Charles: Say, that is "cute"! But what must we say of that oddity, Reverend?

Rev. Muller: We must reply to that by asking, 'But where do the Scriptures refer to and warn against the awful evil of Infant Baptism?' Not one writer against Infant Baptism is brought forward in Scripture! But despite that fact, what sort of attack is made on the doctrine of Infant Baptism, Melvin?

Melvin: The pastors where I formerly attended church said they did not intend to publicly declaim the following, but that they did agree with those who did, as namely, **Kinghorn**: It is "the very precursor of Antichrist, the inlet of almost every abomination." **Dr. Alexander Carson**: It is "the fortress of the man of sin—the very spirit of Antichrist." **Dr. Ide**: That old upas tree which with its death-distilling branches - Popery, prelacy, and skepticism - has for fourteen centuries shaded and blasted the world." **Dr. Howell**: ". . . an evil which despoils the church. . .a sin against God. . .and more disastrous to the cause of truth and salvation than any of the progeny of superstition." **Dr. Fuller**: "an antichristian practice, introducing and perpetrating the most glaring inconsistency and mischievous confusion, tarnishing the glory of the atonement, and doing vast injury to our children."

Rev. M.: Are then believers in the doctrine of Infant Baptism a wicked, obscure minority, - Melvin?

M.: No, sir. Some eminent, godly believers in Infant Baptism were: Huss, Wickliffe, Luther, Calvin, Beza, Melancthon, Zwingli, Knox, Zacharius Ursinus, Casper Olevianus, Guido de

Bres, the Synod of Dordt, and the following denominations - the Presbyterian churches, Reformed churches, Church of England, Protestant Episcopal Church, Reformed Episcopal, the Lutheran chruches, and the Methodist churches.

Rev. M.: Now, Charles, what wil be our approach to this, today's topic?

C.: First, negatively, that Infant Baptism is no sin.

Rev. M: Correct: now open your Psalters to page 55 (old edition, DH) in the back where we have "The Form for the Administration of Baptism." Melvin, can you show from our Baptism Form that Infant Baptism is no sin?

M.: I can: first, in the opening sentence reference is made to the doctrine of **holy** baptism; and under the paragraph, **Secondly, "holy** baptism" and "this **holy** sacrament" are mentioned, while on page 56 it is called "this **holy** ordinance," and on page 57, again twice, "**holy** baptism."

Rev. M.: But in these paragraphs of our baptism form there is no literal mention of **infant** baptism. How do you account for that?

M.: Well, in Scripture there is no case of an adult having been born into a Christian home and baptized as an adult.

Rev. M.: According to the Form, what is the **meaning** of baptism - Charles?

C.: Holy baptism signifies **purification** (paragraph one) and "the **washing away** of our sins" (twice in paragraph two). No sin here, but rather that "we are freed from all our sins" in His blood.

Rev. M.: In holy baptism the Father witnesses and seals to us that He **does** make an eternal covenant of grace with **us** and adopts **us** for His children and heirs. God makes an eternal covenant with **us**? What does that mean, Melvin?

M.: It means He makes a covenant with the parents **and their children**. God never did make a covenant with parents without including their infant children! There is not one example of this in all the Bible. The Abrahamic covenant always included the youngest children. This is so with every covenant of Scripture.

Rev. M.: Under the **Thirdly** what is our part in the covenant, Charles?

C.: Our part in God's covenant is to trust in the one God, love Him with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our mind, and with all our strength, to forsake the world, to crucify the old nature, and to walk in a new and holy life. There is no sin in this, but, on the contrary it is sin not to do our part in the covenant.

Rev. M.: In the word "To infants of believers" what doctrine is implied here? (Both Charles and Melvin raise their hands.) Melvin?

M.: The doctrine of imputation, first of Adam's sin and condemnation without the knowledge of our young children, then of Christ's righteousness, which, without their knowledge is put to their account.

Rev. M.: What can you add to that, Charles?

C.: That to object to the condemnation of all men in Adam is to object also to the imputation of Christ's righteousness to all in Him. The objection really bars the salvation of anyone, and the baptism of anyone. For baptism says no more than what the Gospel says. The Gospel says, "For as in Adam all (All in one universal company) die, even so in Christ shall all (all in one particular company) be made

alive'' (I Cor. 15:22).

Rev. M.: Now that's the **positive** side of the subject! Negatively, infant baptism is no sin; but **positively** infant baptism symbolically declares what the Gospel declares.

C.: Yes, and furthermore, Pastor, on the positive side, God's covenant with Abraham was with him and with his elect seed, Gen. 17:7, including infants of eight days old, and the Apostle Peter testifies that this **everlasting** covenant still continues according to God's promise. Acts 2:39.

Rev. M.: Melvin, what is the positive doctrine in connection with Christ's blessing little children, Mark 10?

M.: It is emphasized in the passage parallel to this, Luke 18:15ff, 'And they brought unto Him also **infants**. . .Jesus. . .said, Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.' 'Of such' means 'theirs' is the kingdom, and according to Lk. 18:17 they **receive** the kingdom! Then they should be permitted to receive the badge of the kingdom, baptism.

Rev. M.: Excellent! Now tell us, Melvin, on what further ground are infants to be baptized?

M.: On the ground that baptism has come in the place of circumcision. There is only one covenant with different dispensations of the covenant. In the old dispensation the sacrament was circumcision. Now in the new dispensation the sacrament is baptism. ''Therefore infants are to be baptized as heirs of the kingdom of God and of His covenant.''

Rev. M.: Charles, briefly explain Col. 2:11-13 upon which this truth is based.

Here all turn in their Bibles to the passage, and Charles speaks: 'In whom (in Him, Christ) also ye **were** (literally) circumcised. . .by the circumcision of Christ! This is not the **ritual** circumcision, but the **real** circumcision, the Cross. ''Having been buried together with Him in **the** baptism'' (not the ritual baptism, but the **real** baptism, i.e., the Cross), wherein ye were risen together with Him through the faith of the operation of God raising Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins (in your heathen unregeneracy) hath He made alive together with Him. . . .'' Here is our objective incorporation into the fellowship of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. This doctrine of ''Incorporation Into Christ'' is objectively true of all God's elect, of the infant children of the church, first of all without their knowledge. But we do pray, ''look upon these children and (in their conscious perception) incorporate them by Thy Holy Spirit into Thy Son Jesus Christ that they (in their educated perceptive understanding of the doctrine) may be buried with Him into His death, and be raised with Him in newness of life. . . .''

Rev. M.: Let's all say 'Amen' to that! (All heartily say, 'Amen!') Good! The doctrine of incorporation into Christ is the Gospel, and there is no incorporation into Christ without infants; and holy baptism says nothing different from the holy Gospel! Amen? Zusammen - **Amen!**

The Lord's Day is a day, not to feast our bodies, but our souls.

Augustus Toplady

WHAT'S HAPPENED!

by Ruth Bleyenberg

HUDSONVILLE, MI:

1. Gerald Van Baren and Heidi Korhorn were united in marriage on Friday, May 26.
2. At their request, the membership papers of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vermeer with five baptized children were sent to our Hope, Grand Rapids congregation.
3. At her request, the baptismal statement of Mrs. Tammy (Miedema) Bengtson was sent to her home.
4. We have received the baptism papers for Randy Moorman from the Reformed Church of Corinth in Byron Center.
5. Randy Moorman and Barbara Bergman appeared before the consistory to make confession of faith. Unless there were any objections, the confession of faith was held on July 2.
6. Bruce Miedema and Anne Newhof were united in marriage on Friday, July 28 at First Prot. Ref. Church.

FIRST, Grand Rapids:

1. A Certificate of Dismissal was delivered to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reitsma (and their three baptized children), and another to Mr. James Mulder, at their requests. They intend to affiliate with the Byron Center First Christian Reformed Church.
2. We extend congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Tim Thompson on the birth of a son, Alexander, on May 10.
3. We extend congratulations to Mr. Adrian Griffoen who celebrated his 84th birthday on May 19.
4. We extend congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Dan Pastoor in the birth of a son, Jonathon Lee, on July 3.
5. We extend congratulations to Mrs. Tina Doezema who celebrated her 93rd birthday July 10, and to Mrs. Otto VanderWoude who was 87 on Wednesday, July 12.
6. On Friday, July 14, a farewell was given to the Bruinsma family, for their mission work over the past years.

SOUTHEAST, Grand Rapids:

1. Holy baptism was administered to Jarrod Kamphuis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kamphuis on May 28.
2. Paul and Linda Young were gifted with a baby girl, Debbi Raelyn, on June. 1.
3. We extend our congratulations to Mrs. Agatha Reitsma, who celebrated her 88th birthday on June 21.

DOON, Iowa:

1. The consistory received a donation and a request to start a fund for the possible erection of the church bell from the old church building.
2. On April 23, John Mantel made public confession of faith.

COVENANT, New Jersey

1. On May 28 after the morning service

the congregation had dinner together and continued fellowship.
2. Their church picnic was held on May 29, beginning at 1 p.m.

HULL, Iowa
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Vink were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Leah Faye.

IMMANUEL, Lacombe, Alberta:
1. Mr. Paul Linker made public confession of faith on May 28.
2. The membership papers of Valarie Zylstra have been transferred to our sister congregation in Edmonton at her request.
3. The congregation is happy to announce that they are expecting 12-15 individuals to attend the Class On The Covenant. The objectives of these meetings is as follows: 1.) To understand more fully God's covenant of grace with us and our children as a covenant of fellowship. 2.) To become aware of the centrality of the covenant to all the truth of the gospel. 3.) To become acquainted with various views of the covenant that various theologians and churches hold to, most of which deny the sovereignty of God. 4.) To understand the baptism of infants in the light of the covenant. 5.) To appreciate the great goodness of God in establishing His covenant with us and with our seed.

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill:
1. On May 28, the infant son of Keith and Mary Vooys was baptized.
2. On Tuesday, June 6, Mrs. Bertha Collet, age 86, went to be with her Lord after suffering complications from her lung cancer. May her death remind us all not only of the frailty of our lives, but also of the hope of eternal life and the resurrection of the body which is ours in Jesus Christ.
3. At their request the membership papers of Kristin Engelsma were transferred to our Southeast Church, and the membership papers of Larry and Elizabeth Abel were sent to their home at their request.
4. The Farewell Program for Rev. R. Van Overloop, who served as our Home Missionary for 10 years, was held on Tuesday, June 20.
5. We rejoice with Bob and Linda Van Baren, who were blessed with the birth of a baby boy, Ryan Neil, on Tuesday, June 20.
6. Matthew Pfau will be entering the Navy for a four year commitment beginning June 26. He plans to have eight weeks of basic training at the Great Lakes Naval base north of Chicago. As he leaves us and his family, we commend him to the grace and care of our heavenly Father, Who is our unsleeping Guardian and Who will preserve our going out and our coming in. (Psalm 121).
7. We rejoice with Dave and Cheryl Dotson with a new baby daughter, Jordanna Beth, on July 5.
8. The public confessions of faith of Joel and John Busker took place on July 30.

LOVELAND, CO:
1. We rejoice with Mr. & Mrs. Victor Solanyk in the birth of a baby boy, Darren Grant.
2. Rev. Cammenga preached May 21 in the Sovereign Grace Church of Morill, Nebraska at their request and with approval of the consistory. We pray that the Lord will bless this opportunity to witness to these saints.
3. The annual church picnic was held on July 4 on the Church and school grounds.

FIRST, Holland:
1. The annual church picnic was held on Wednesday, June 21 at the Zeeland Lawrence Street Park.
2. The congregation held a grocery shower for Rev. Bruinsma and his family.

SOUTHWEST, Grandville:
1. The sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered to Craig Richard infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Randall Feenstra on June 25.
2. The installation of officebearers, namely, Gerrit Boverhof and Clarence Kuiper as elders and Dick Kuiper and Randy Vander Veen as deacons, had taken place during the morning service of July 11.
3. Mr. Dale Bekkering and Miss Tricia Lotterman were united in marriage on Friday, July 14. May the Lord be with them as they begin their new married life, one in Christ.
4. At her request, the membership papers of Mrs. Cheryl Cammenga have been transferred to the First Prot. Ref. Church of Holland.

HOPE, Redlands:
1. On May 27, Mrs. Margaret Mc Neece celebrated her 81st birthday.
2. Dismissal papers have been sent to Mr. Hal Pringle upon his request. He will be attending Immanuel Baptist Church.
3. The sacrament of baptism was administered to Matthew Arthur, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bleyenberg.
4. On June 8, Mrs. Jennie Feenstra celebrated her 89th birthday. She shows many infirmities of old age, though for the time she remains home. May God keep her in His care in the days that remain to her.
5. The young people's society is busy planning for the 1990 convention. They have held many fund-raising events already.
6. On June 21, an infant son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Beren Meelker. Andrew Jon received the administration of baptism on July 2.

FAITH, Jenison:
1. The membership papers of Victor and Phyllis Oosterhaan have been received from the Cutlerville East Chr Ref. Church.
2. At their request, the membership papers of Mr. and Mrs. John Docter, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Smith and family, Mrs. Jo Pastoor, and Mrs. Hildrene Smith have been delivered to their homes.

EDMONTON, Alberta:
The following families have been blessed with the birth of a child over the past months.
1. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schmidt with a daughter, Beverly.
2. Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Miersma with a son, Jonathan.
3. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Mulder with a son, Joshua.
4. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ferguson with a son, Todd.
5. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Nieuwenkamp with a son, Theodore.

HOPE, Walker:
1. The membership papers of Nicholas Kleyn have been received from the Burnie congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia.
2. The baptism of Jordan Timothy, son of Tim and Tresa Koole had taken place on Sunday, June 25. Also baptism was administered to Jared Timothy, son of Tom and Brenda DeVries that same morning.

3. The membership papers of Miss Betty Zandstra have been transferred to our Byron Center Church at her request.
4. The public confession of faith of Jon Langerak took place on Sunday, June 25.
5. Sharon Hanko and Daniel Kleyn were united in marriage on June 30. May God bless these young people as they begin their life together.
6. Our young people sponsored slides featuring Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore. They were shown by Mr. and Mrs. Hank Brands. The proceeds were for the 1989 convention.

FEDERATION BOARD
The Fed. Board sponsored a volleyball outing at Holland Beach on July 15.

BEACON LIGHTS:
On behalf of the **Beacon Lights** staff, we thank Karen Vink for her work done as secretary for the **Beacon Lights**. Karen has decided to further her education, in which it would not be possible for her to continue her secretarial position.

As the new **Beacon Lights** secretary, I look forward to this position and hope I may fulfill my duties to the upmost

My Bible and I

We've travelled together, my Bible and I,
Thro' all kinds of weather, with smile or with sigh!
In sorrow or sunshine, in tempest of calm,
Thy friendship unchanging, my lamp and my psalm.

We've travelled together, my Bible and I,
When life had grown weary, and death e'en was nigh!
But all through the darkness of mist or of wrong
I found there a solace, a prayer, or song.

So now who shall part us, my Bible and I,
Shall "isms" or schisms, or "new lights" who try?
Shall shadow for substance, or stone for good bread,
Supplant thy sound wisdom, give folly instead?

Ah, no! my dear Bible, exponent of light!
Thou sword of the Spirit, put error to flight;
And still through life's journey, until my last sigh,
We'll travel together, my Bible and I.

CLEAR SHINING AFTER RAIN

The sway of Christ as King, according to David's description, is like "clear shining after rain," whereby the tender grass is made to spring out of the earth. So have we often seen it. After a heavy shower of rain, or after a continued rainy season, when the sun shines, there is a delightful clearness and freshness in the air that we seldom perceive at other times. Perhaps the brightest weather is just when the rain has ceased, when the wind has drifted away the clouds, and the sun peers forth from his chambers to gladden the earth with his smiles. And thus is it with the Christian's exercised heart. Sorrow does not last forever. After the pelting rain of adversity comes ever and anon the clear shining. Tried believer, consider this. After all your afflictions there remains a rest for the people of God. There is a clear shining coming to your soul when all this rain is past. When your time of rebuke is over and gone, it shall be to you as the earth when the tempest has sobbed itself to sleep, when the clouds have rent themselves to rags, and the sun peers forth once more as a bridegroom in his glorious array. To this end, sorrow cooperates with the bliss that follows it, like rain and sunshine, to bring forth the tender blade. The tribulation and the consolation work together for our good. "As the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ." The clear shining after rain produces an atmosphere that refreshes herbs and cereals: and the joy of the Lord, after seasons of sorrow, makes the soul fruitful. Thus we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Pink

A Word to Our Sick: The psalmist sings: "Truly my soul waiteth upon God." Ps. 62:1 Our Psalter renders the original quite properly: "My soul in silence waits for God." A soul in silence, or a silent soul! What a blessed gift of grace! A silent soul is the opposite of a turbulent, restless, impatient, rebellious soul. It is a soul that is resting in God. If our soul is silent toward God we do not judge His ways with us, do no murmur, speak not against Him, are of a tranquil mind, free from fear and anxiety, have peace with God and with His ways. How blessed to be able to say this in times of trouble and suffering! To enjoy this blessing we must wait upon Him, trust in Him, follow where He leads, confident that our salvation shall surely come from Him, and humbly commit the way to Him. They that wait for the Lord shall never be ashamed!

Rev. Herman Hoeksema