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A LAND I WILL SHOW THEE

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EDITOR'S NOTES: December

by David Harbach

As you have noticed by now this is the December issue of the Beacon Lights. "Whatever happened to the November issue?" you ask. To which I reply, "Not enough copy to make an issue." Rather than wait until there is enough copy at the last minute to make the November issue, I have decided to omit that issue and produce the December issue which has enough articles. Actually the staff and the Federation Board suggested I omit any issue that would come out late if I had to wait until there was enough copy to make an issue. We want the Beacon Lights to come out early each month, even a week before the month of the issue. In order to do this, the articles for each issue must be to me on time. If they are not on time, then you may see more issues omitted because of a lack of articles. We apologize to you the reader and hope you will understand our situation.

Do you want to know a SECRET? Prof. R. Decker's speech that he gave at the Young People's Convention this past summer is in this issue and you can read about the Christian's secret in his speech "Contentment In Suffering". Prof. Decker spoke about the suffering of God's people and being content in that suffering. He also spoke about how that contentment is attained.

A special convention issue will be sent to all young people who attended the convention. The speeches of the convention will be spread throughout future issues of the Beacon Lights.

If you heard the expression, "Don't ruin Uncle George's socks," you would be inclined to think this was

about a relative who was borrowing Uncle George's socks and being warned not to abuse the socks. The intended meaning of these words, however, has nothing to do with socks. To find out what this phrase is all about read Gramps letter "A Habit Letter To My Grandchildren." Mr. John Faber writes another interesting and encouraging letter from his heart to those whom he loves. Reading his article is a good habit to keep.

There are many things as young people that we must remember and not forget. Rev. J. Heys reminds us of what we, as well as our parents and grandparents, must remember and have daily in our mind. The article, "An Awesome Call To Our Young People," in rubric **From the Pastor's Study** provides us with a practical study of Ecclesiastes 12:1. Though we must remember the birth of our Savior, His cross, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, there is also another profoundly important truth to keep in mind and heart.

Kristi Moelker from our Hope congregation in Walker, Michigan gives us another book review, this time on "A Land I Will Show Thee," by Marian M. Schoolland. Those of you who live in Holland, Michigan will be especially interested in reading this book since it is the story of a young couple who travel from the Netherlands to America. Thanks Kristi for whetting our appetite for reading a great piece of literature.

Ruth Blyenberg has produced her last issue of "What's Happened" now that she has taken over the responsibilities of secretary. To take her place is Joan Buiter from Hope Church, Walker, MI. Joan has her work cut out for her and if her suggestions at our last staff meeting are any indication of her abilities, she will continue to provide us with interesting and exciting news. Welcome aboard Joan and may our Covenant God provide you with His strength. Bulletin clerks please note, her address is 1501 Maderia, SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

We are also very pleased to tell you that Bruce Miedema will be writing for us as an associate editor. Bruce comes from our Hudsonville, Michigan church where he co-leads the Senior Young People's Society. His enthusiasm for his new position is contagious, so look forward to reading his articles in the near future.

Singspiration Schedule

December 17	Christmas	Hudsonville
February 18		Byron Center
March 18		Southwest
May 20		Hope
August	Pre-Convention	1st Jenison CRC

Editorial

A HABIT LETTER TO MY GRANDCHILDREN

by John M. Faber

Dear Grandchildren:

All people are creatures of habit, and that, of course, includes you boys and girls. What does that mean? Well the way you always tie your shoe laces is a habit. When you first had to learn that tricky task you were shown how. Then you tried it, and tried it a second time and third time, etc. There seems to be a first time for every activity, but if you do not try it a second time you will never make it a habit. You say, "Of course, everybody knows that." True, but I am aiming at something that may help you some way later on.

There are good and bad habits. Tidying up your bedroom before you go to school is a good habit. And to get into that habit you had to remember it the second time, and the third time in a row, so you made it a habit. Just remember the rule, repeating a certain action a few times the same way makes it a habit.

A bad habit in your life might be that you postpone your home-work until early morning, before breakfast, instead of the night before. So, if you are guilty of that, three times in a row, you are cultivating a bad habit.

Another good habit is to eat wholesome foods at certain times; a bad habit is to eat junk foods at frequent times. Again, three or four times in a row might get you in a rut - lo, a habit has been formed.

Of course, because we are prone to sin, making bad habits comes so easily. I am not going to discuss good habits, but those from which we should free ourselves. All those bad ones have one common denominator. They start - first step, it calls for a second, then a third, etc. Now you have a full blown habit in your knapsack. Are both kinds the same in every way? No, the good ones can easily be used to satisfy our needs, like eating breakfast, lunch and dinner the same time every day; but it can easily become bad by eating too much. Now bad habits are due to sin, and we have a common enemy who delights in seeing a Christian fall into sin. He is Satan, and his fallen angels, the devils, are ready to help him.

Your gramps knows people who smoked their first cigarette, bummed from a friend, but that first called for a second, third, and boom! a habit was formed. That habit is injurious to good health, and forms a craving for more and more. This habit is so bad that it sometimes results in lung cancer. That sequence, first, second, third repeats does not necessarily result in lung cancer. No, people are known to have quit the habit for the rest of their lives. Quitting any habit is not easy, but you have known many that have done just that.

There is another bad habit among young people, that is pilfering. Taking some object from a store shelf, putting it in one's pocket and leaving. That is

plain stealing. I am learning that there is another bad habit creeping into lives of some of our own young people. That is the use of alcohol just for fun. Shame on you! Don't you know that a small habit grows into a big one? That "now and then" drink becomes a steady habit when with friends in a congenial situation. Do you realize how serious that is? The Bible clearly states that a drunkard cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Realizing that it wasn't the first drink, but the second, third and fourth that made it a habit. So, young people, please refuse the fourth, the third, the second, and yes, the first one.

But there is one more habit said to be found among our young people. I can hardly believe it, but one of your girl companions wrote about it in our STANDARD BEARER. That is such a vile habit, so harmful to your body, so low down dirty that I won't even use the word in this clean magazine. I'll just call it "dirty word". I hear that "dirty word" is "done". They say that some of you "do it". Others smoke it, and others (action most vile) "inject" it into your veins. Either way, that "dirty word" practice is, according to the Heidelberg Catechism "killing the body". That, young people, is suicide. Remember, a suicider cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Initially I had said that I would not say the "dirty word", but I can after all say it initially, with this silly sentence, Don't Ruin Uncle George's Socks.

So, dear Grandchildren, do not let a little habit grow up into a Bad habit. Bad habits are sin. And sin can only be covered by the shed blood of Christ.

I suppose you are not surprised that this letter has turned out to be another sermon. Listen to it.

Love, Gramps.

Convention Speech
CONTENTMENT IN SUFFERING

by Prof. Robert D. Decker

Thank you for the privilege of speaking to you. It has been a number of years since I have spoken at a Young People's Convention. And I am grateful for the opportunity to address you tonight.

Christians, you and I too, know a **SECRET**: it's the secret of being content not just when things are going well for us — then it is easy to be content. But we can also be content when things are not going so well; in fact when things are going badly; we know the secret of being content even in suffering!

Unbelievers don't know that secret. They are never content. When they prosper, when things are going well, when they have wealth and health they are covetous. They always want more. And they are never satisfied, never do they have enough; and at the same time they refuse to acknowledge God. They boast in their own accomplishments.

When things go badly, the ungodly grumble and complain.

I once met a man in the hospital on

my way to visit a sick member of my congregation. He must have seen the Bible I was carrying for he asked: "Are you a minister?"

"Yes," I answered, thinking I would have opportunity to talk to him about God and Jesus and His Word.

Do you know what he said to me? He snarled: "Go to hell!"

Far from being content, that man was rebelling against God!

The Christian is content; he knows that secret.

Let me tell you a true story. There was a wealthy businessman in Chicago; a Christian man who had four beautiful daughters. He gave them a trip to Europe and they traveled by ship. The ship ran into a terrible storm and sank. All were drowned, including the man's four daughters. The same day that the man received this tragic and terrible news he learned that he had lost all his money through a bank failure.

That night he wrote these words:

When peace like a river attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll,

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

That man was able to triumph over the worst and most tragic of life's circumstances! Why? Because he knew the secret of being content! Do you?

CONTENTMENT IN SUFFERING

I. Suffering, the Lot of Christians

II. Being Content in that Suffering

III. How that Contentment is Attained

Suffering, the Lot of Christians

There is the suffering of persecution. Think of the church and the saints of the Old Testament. Adam and Eve were attacked by Satan when he tempted them in the very beginning. Their righteous son, Abel, was murdered by his own brother Cain. What a grief that must have been to Adam and Eve.

A little later, Enoch, who walked with God and who prophesied of the coming judgment upon the wicked, was delivered by God from his persecutors when he was translated to heaven.

And there is Noah, a preacher of righteousness. He and his family (8 people in all!) were all that were left of the church. God saved them from their persecutors with the waters of the flood!

The patriarchs suffered persecution. Abraham was a stranger and a pilgrim in the land of promise. Isaac had two sons, twins in fact — Jacob and Esau. And Esau was a reprobate. Jacob finally died in Egypt, far from Canaan.

Think of the terrible persecutions the Israelites suffered in their long history. In Egypt, in the wilderness, and even in Canaan there was persecution. Then they were carried away captive by Babylon where they wept when they remembered Jerusalem. The faithful remnant, which returned to Canaan, had to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other.

And Hebrews 11:35-38 sums up the suffering and persecution of the Old Testament saints. We read: "Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and

goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."

Things are no different in the New Testament. John the Baptist, in Herod's prison, lost his head because he loved his Lord. Jesus was hated, mocked, rejected, opposed, and finally nailed to the cross.

Jesus warned us repeatedly that we would be hated of all men and made to suffer as His followers. But the Savior also encouraged us. He told us not to fear for it is His Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom. And He told us that we are to rejoice and be exceeding glad for so persecuted they the prophets who were before us. Jesus promised that those who suffer with Him will also be glorified with Him!

The apostles suffered persecution. They were mocked, whipped, put into prison, exiled on lonely islands. And many of them suffered a martyr's death.

That has been the case ever since. Many saints had to worship in secret in the catacombs, yet thousands died during the persecutions by Rome. More thousands died for their faith at the hands of the Roman Catholics during the Reformation. Guido deBres was hanged on the last day of May, 1567 because of what he had written in the Belgic Confession! Our Dutch fathers (Van Raalte) came from the Netherlands and settled just 25 miles from here in what is now Holland, Michigan so they could worship freely in 1847. That same year, Rev. Scholte led his followers to Pella, Iowa (city of Refuge for the same reason.

There are many Christians suffering persecution today in China, Romania, Malaysia and elsewhere.

And the Bible promises there will be a Great Tribulation just before Jesus comes again! How true are the words of Scripture in II Timothy 3:12, "All who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

In addition, there is the suffering which is the result of sin. All kinds of sicknesses and diseases are prevalent: physical diseases - heart disease, cancer, and others with terrible pain; emotional/mental illness - depression, anxiety. And all of us, sooner or later, will face the last enemy, death. Death means the end of all our earthly relationships. It means sorrow and loneliness. All of this suffering and more is the experience of every child of God!

Being Content in that Suffering

Our calling is to be content in this suffering.

Contentment is the opposite of the reaction or attitude of unbelief toward suffering.

The ungodly avoid the suffering of persecution. One of the reasons they reject the faith is that they do not want to suffer for Jesus' sake. They are of the world and, as Jesus told us, the world loves his own. These, in fact, become the very ones who persecute the church and make God's people to suffer.

But, the ungodly do experience the sufferings that result from sin - sickness, sorrow, depression, pain, anxiety, and the rest. . .ultimately death, eternal death. And they manifest various attitudes in that suffering. Some show stoic acceptance: whatever will be will be; just take the bitter with the sweet. They are defiant in the face of God. Others get depressed, bleak.

black discouragement, anxious, uncontrolled grief, hysteria. Still others openly rebel, like Job's wife: "Curse God and die!"

The Christian is content in suffering. And to be content is to be perfectly satisfied with one's lot or circumstances. It is to say: I have enough, no lack. My needs are met. It is to confess that God is good always. It is to say: All is well with my soul. To be content is not just to accept and bear whatever the Lord sends. To be content is to be satisfied with our circumstances, even thankful for them, and even to rejoice in them. In one word: it is to triumph over even the most tragic and worst circumstances in life!

This is true even in suffering. It is easy to be content when there is no suffering, when things are going well with us. It is easy to rejoice, to be thankful, to be content then. But we are to be content also in suffering — when we are on a bed of pain, when we have cancer, or some other disease; when we have to watch a loved one suffer and then die; when we are mocked for the faith and our way is made very difficult; when life is full of dashed hopes, unfulfilled dreams, disappointments, and crushing burdens. Are we content in those ways? Can we be? Have we learned the secret?

How That Contentment is Attained

How is this possible? The answer is found in Philippians 4:11-13. There Paul says, "I have learned. . . to be content!" To learn something is to increase one's knowledge. Paul says, I know how to abound and to be abased, to be humbled and brought low. . .I have learned to be content in whatsoever state I am! So, we have to learn to be satisfied, to rejoice in suffering, to be thankful and content always.

How do we learn that? God must teach us this! That is what Paul says in Philippians 4:12: I am instructed both to be hungry and to be full. That word "instructed" means that I have been taught the mystery or the secret. God taught Paul and He teaches us the secret of being content!

And what is that secret? It is to know that God loves us in Jesus Christ and has saved us from sin and death through Him. It is to know that nothing comes by chance, nothing just happens. Everything, all our life's experiences are in God's all-wise plan. And thus they work for our good and salvation, even suffering!

That is the secret we and all Christians know! And knowing that, we are content! And that is only through the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

That is why Paul says in verse 13: "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me. All things! Not just some, many, or even most things — but all things I can do. Through Christ! Not through myself, not by my own strength. I can not do a thing by myself. But only and always through Christ! Through my Savior I can do all things! He is the One Who strengthens me. Literally, He pours power into me! And through that mighty power I am content, satisfied. I can rejoice even in suffering! I have learned that secret!

And God teaches us that secret. He gives us the grace to be content, pours that power into us. He does this chiefly by the preaching of the Word. But He also uses godly instruction of our parents and Christian school teachers and the reading of His Word and praying. Has God taught you the secret?

Are you content?

BOOK REVIEW

A LAND I WILL SHOW THEE

by Kristi Moelker

The book A Land I Will Show Thee written by Marian M. Schoolland is a great piece of literature. This book not only tells of the romance of a young couple, but it also informs the reader of how God in His faithfulness brought His people to America.

During the mid 1800's this story takes place. The main setting of this story is the wilderness of Western Michigan which is known today as the city of Holland. A pastor brought his congregation across the ocean to this place because of the religious and economic difficulty that they were experiencing in their homeland.

Although the main setting of this story is Holland, Michigan, the beginning of this story takes place in the Netherlands. The government sought to take control of the churches. Because of this the pastor and his congregation met to form a colony which would travel to America.

With determination and trust in God, these people made plans for their journey to America. They couldn't all travel together so the colony was divided in two. The second part left a short time after the first part left.

Once they got to Michigan, each family had to find lodging while houses were in the process of being built. It took six month of hard work before the colony came together. During these months the land had to be cleared and houses had to be built.

Just like so many other people who came to America to begin new lives, these people faced hardships. They experienced drought, sickness, and even death. Through all of this these people were closely knit together through their love for each other and their love for their Heavenly Father.

Although some grew discouraged and found their way back to their homeland, more families and individuals from the Netherlands made their way to Holland. In no time this settlement grew into a city. This was the result of God's blessing upon His people.

There are three main characters in this book. The first of these main characters is Domine Albertus Van Raalte who is the pastor who led his congregation to America and set up this settlement. Anton Berghuis, the second main character, is a young man who came to America with his family and eventually married. Anna Faber, the third main character came to America because of her love for Anton.

Having read this book, I must say that it is an excellent book. In comparison to another book which I have read, this book is better. My reason for saying this is that throughout this book I could tell that these people always had faith in God. Even in difficult times their faith was evident.

Not only is it evident that these people had faith in God, but it is also clear that God was faithful to His people. If God hadn't been faithful, all

of the work in building the settlement would have been in vain. There is an important lesson in this for us as young people. We must realize that without the faithfulness of God all we do is in vain.

Finally, I would like to say that this is a very good book for young people to read. It is an excellent book for anyone who would like to know what our ancestors experienced when they came to America. I'm sure that many of you would like to read this book.

From The Pastor's Study
AN AWESOME CALL TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

by Rev. John A. Heys

There are things, Young People, which we forget, but also things which we just cannot forget. There are things which we remember, and which, when we remember them, bring joy and gladness to our souls. And there are things which bring grief and sadness to our souls, because we forgot them. He forgot to check the oil in his automobile, and the engine was severely damaged, because it did not get the lubrication that it needed. She forgot to turn off the oven, and the food was badly burned.

There are people whom we remember, and there are people whom we do not even want to remember. There are people whom we love to think of; and there are people whom we want to forget. But tell me once, Young People, what, in your minds, is so extremely important to remember and never forget? What should you, as well as your parents and grandparents, remember and, in fact, have daily in your mind?

No, I am not asking what **thing** you should remember, although there are many things you must remember, such as the birth of our Savior, His cross and resurrection and ascension into heaven. You must remember that our God saved us through His Son. But there is something deeper than that, something which you must remember in order to enjoy the blessedness of those truths. As Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Rememver now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

The awesome truth is that we cannot remember the salvation which God has prepared for us in His Son, if we forget Him as the creator of heaven and earth and all that they contain. Forget that truth and you will forget that you are a sinner who needs that salvation. Every time that we sin, we act as though He is not the creator of all things, and deny that we are using His possessions in hatred towards Him instead of in love. Not seeing that, we fail to see the need of Christ and His

cross. We must remember that God is the Creator, and therefore the possessor of all things, and has the sovereign right to demand of us that we use absolutely everything and every moment of our lives in serving Him.

The truth that He is The Creator means that absolutely everything is His possession. Therefore it also means that we, His rational, moral creatures, must use everyhing that He brings to us, without any exception, in love to Him and in serving Him, since everything is His. That He is the Creator means that we also are His possession. We may call them our hands and feet, heart and mind, eyes and ears. They are ours in distinction from those of other people. But we must bear in mind and remember every step of our way that they are tools, instruments, gifts of God to us so that we may be able and be equipped to serve Him and to glorify Him.

In Matthew 22:36-40 Jesus tells you — and He never makes any mistakes — that you must "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." The point is that we must use all that God gives us by serving Him in love. We, and the whole creation wherein He placed us are His possession. We forget that so often. So often we see and feel the thing but do not remember God as the one Who made it and gave it to us, so that He might be served and glorified by us.

Now, remembering our Creator does not mean that we must always have Him consciously before our minds, and that we sin when we do not do so. He created us as creatures that must sleep. In fact He created Eve in the way of putting Adam into a deep sleep. Genesis 2:21. For a time he did not have God in his thoughts and could not. While we are working a mathematical problem, or counting bills and coins in order to pay a bill, we cannot have consciously before us every split second that He is our Creator. But the point is that we must always be governed in what we do by the fact that all things are His and must be used by us to serve Him.

Yes, before we close our eyes, in order to get the rest of sleep, we must remember to pray to God and commit ourselves to His care. Before we do anything, whether it is with hand or mouth, with heart of mind, we must remember our Creator; and that all the things we are going to use were given us by Him, so that we could serve Him with them in love. Remembering our Creator means having the truth concerning Him stored securely in our minds. It means that we know and believe, and are thankful to Him for all that which He made and gave to us as tools for His service. It means that, before we do anything, we are motivated by love to Him to use all His creatures for the work which He wants us to do. And not only must this truth that He is the Creator of all things be securely stored in our minds, but it must be foremost in all our thought. It must move us to use all things in the way that is pleasing in His sight, because it serves His cause and glorifies Him.

Remember, Young People, that you must remember your Creator. You live in a time far more evil than the days were when we were your age. Sin is developing very, very fast! Years ago young people in the church did not dare to be caught coming out of the theatre, where the carnal deeds of the world are presented as entertainment for the

unbeliever's flesh. But now you can stay at home and watch the world's filth - and even let it feast your flesh - on the television screen in your own home! In fact today we can even find churches recommending the works of the world in movies for the entertainment of the flesh, rather than for serving our God, the Creator of all things, for His own glory. The world is brought into the covenant home to make its members forget God and please Satan. Sin does not stand still. It is developing very rapidly today. And remember, Young People, that if you do not remember your Creator, and do pattern your life after the world's way of life and entertainment, your children and grandchildren are going to take ever bigger steps away from the truth, and from a walk that pleases and glorifies our God.

Sin does not stand still! Adam and Eve sinned and brought the curse upon the whole human race. Then sin developed tremendously and swiftly with the murder of Abel, and the deviltry that brought about the flood our God sent to save the church that had dwindled down to only eight souls. Since that day, and after the confusion of tongues for the church's protection, every one of the ten commandments is being violated boldly and in an innumerable number of forms. Soon the whole world will be ruled by the antichrist; and the church will have no place to hide, or country to flee to for safety. All, not having the mark of the beast, will be tormented severely, and be threatened with death by starvation, because they will not be allowed to buy or to sell. That day is not far away as mankind is striving to unite the whole world into one kingdom, and therefore tries to put an end to all war.

One of the obvious deviltries in your day, Young People, is the awful dope and drug addiction, which our government will by billions of dollars try to stop in our country. These drugs come from plants which our God created, but not made as food for man, not brought forth for that which his body needs for life. Taking these drugs is forgetting our God as the Creator of all things, and it is seeking wicked enjoyment for the flesh.

Young People, flee from that devilishness. Listen: those drugs are as surely the fruit of a tree of knowledge of good and evil as the one was that Satan used to tempt Adam and Eve! They are made from the fruit of a plant which God told us **we may not eat.** Eating and drinking it in no way is remembering our Creator. It is turning our backs upon Him.

Likewise, let me advise you, avoid that milder, drug and dope: that tobacco which was not created for the nourishment of the human body, was not brought into being to be food for us, and is **not something we need for life.** It is something that can shorten and take away your life. Our government warns you of that fact. In cigarette advertisements in magazines you will find these words of warning sent out by our government: "SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide." Or again (and this is for you young ladies to consider): "SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight." And if you young women begin to smoke now, you will find it very hard to stop after marriage. One more: "SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette Smoke Causes

Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, And May Complicate Pregnancy."

Now I do not mean hereby that smoking is going to do this to everyone who smokes, or that particular cases of these afflictions are due to such smoking. Eleven years ago I had a serious heart disease; and I never smoked. One of my brothers died of Emphysema; and he never smoked. Nevertheless, this warning, which is not based by our government upon God's call for us to remember our Creator, is very important and tells us that we are playing with fire, and therefore that this is not remembering our Creator.

Besides, since that smoke contains carbon monoxide - a poison to the human body - smoking presents the real danger of poisoning those who do not smoke but are where that poison is exhaled into the room. There is a good reason why our government ruled that all through our country airlines may not allow smoking by any of the passengers. We must remember our Creator, but we therefore must also remember our neighbours, and be concerned with their wellbeing.

All this, Young People, I write to you in love. There is not such thing as a retired minister. He may be emeritated, because of age or physical disability which make it impossible for him to do all the work a pastor is required to do. But, even then, he must do all that he can, (remembering his Creator, as Solomon did) namely, teach the truth to our covenant seed.

One more thing yet. Remember your Creator when you look for a wife or husband. Remember Him when you go dating. Be sure you date one who will help you remember your Creator, and not lead you to forgetting Him. Remember that God created Eve to be an **help** meet, that is suitable, for Adam. Genesis 2:18-20. Satan made her forget her Creator, and she moved Adam to forget that He is our Creator. Let this be a warning to you. Be sure the he/she is one who will help you remember your Creator.

WHAT'S HAPPENED

by Ruth Bleyenberg

RANDOLPH, Wisconsin:
1. On July 16, Mr. Richard De Vries made public confession of his faith before the congregation.
2. On July 16, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Brian Buteyn received the administration of baptism.
3. On August 20, Beth De Vries, Jody De Vries, Phil De Vries and John Huizenga made public confession of their faith.

DOON, Iowa:
1. We extend congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jay Teunissen, who were married June 7, and Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Warntjes, who were married on June 10. May the blessing of Psalm 128

be theirs as they seek to establish godly homes on the basis of God's Word.
2. On Wednesday, July 19, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Hunter were blessed with the birth of a baby girl, Beth Antonette.

SOUTHWEST, Grandville, MI:
1. We extend congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kamps on the birth of a daughter, Anna Mae.
2. The membership papers of Mr. John H. Ophoff have been received from the Byron Center Prot. Ref. Church. We welcome him into our communion and fellowship.
3. On Saturday, September 9, Miss Nancy Blaskowski and Mr. Gord Schipper were united in marriage. We wish them God's richest blessing as they begin their married life together.

LOVELAND, Colorado:
1. We wish to extend our best wishes to Mrs. Louise Griess who celebrated her 82nd birthday on August 19.
2. The membership papers of Miss Amy Alsum have been sent to her at her request.

FIRST. Grand Rapids, MI:
1. On August 6, Faith Joostens, Lynda Mulder, and Lisabeth Monsma made public confession of their faith.
2. We congratulate Rev. Lubbers, who celebrated his 80th birthday on August 6. Having, by reason of strength, attained to fourscore years, Rev. Lubbers remains strong, able still to be active in one way or another in our churches. Reflecting on both the good times and the difficult, Rev. Lubbers testifies that God's grace "has been more than sufficient." We thank the Lord, for the blessings He has given us through the labors of this faithful servant of Christ and His church.
3. We also extend congratulations to Mr. Harold Glupker who celebrated his 80th birthday, Mr. Chuck Pastoor who celebrated her 86th birthday, and to Mrs. Marguerite DeYoung who celebrated her 82nd birthday.
4. At her request Debbie Dykstra was given a Certificate of Dismissal. She intends to affiliate with the First Reformed Church in Kalamazoo.
5. The membership papers of Rev. and Mrs. Bruinsma and four baptized children have been transferred to the First Prot. Ref. Church of Holland.
6. We extend congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Doezema in the birth of their sixth child, a daughter, Denise Leanne, on September 6.

SOUTHEAST, Grand Rapids, MI:
1. On August 13, the sacrament of holy baptism was administered to Kimberly De Vries, daughter of Dave and Carol De Vries.
2. The consistory received from Faith Church the membership papers of Gerald Kuiper and from our South Holland congregation the membership papers of Kristin Engelsma.
3. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Chip Wierenga upon the birth of a baby boy, Seth Andrew.

HUDSONVILLE, MI:
1. On August 20, the sacrament of holy baptism was administered to Lisa Renee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kraker, to Benjamin Jay, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kuiper, and to Hope Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Start. We rejoice in this token of the covenant goodness of our Father, and pray His blessing on the parents and the children.
2. On September 17, we witnessed the

baptism of Kelli Jo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Koop, Jr., and to Kristin Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Prins.

3. The wedding of Pamela Brummel and Jeffrey Lubbers took place on September 22. May God graciously be with these two as they begin their new married life together.

4. At their request, the membership of Mr. Gerald Van Baren has been transferred to our Southeast Church and the membership of Mrs. Joy (Miedema) De Groot has been transferred to our Byron Center Church.

HOPE, Walker, MI:

1. We extend congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Koole on the birth of twins in September.

2. On September 17, Shari Besselsen, Sheila Carmody, Jim Daling, David Hop, and Mark Langerak made public confession of their faith.

FAITH, Jenison, MI:

1. On September 15, Mr. Bill Huber II and Miss Diane Ondersma were united in Holy Marriage at Southwest Church.

2. A welcome was held for Rev. Koole and his family on Monday, September 11. Rev. Koole was installed on September 10.

HULL, Iowa

We extend our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Bleyenberg on the birth of a son, Derrick. The Lord has graciously blessed these parents with 15 healthy children. May the Lord continue to guide and uphold this family as they lead a family life that is instructed in the fear of the Lord.