BEACON LIGHTS

FOR PROTESTANT REFORMED YOUTH

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1990

""What is important is not where we have been born but with what kind of life we now live. The whole human race, because of God's sovereign election, is divided into only two kinds of people. We are believers or unbelievers. We are citizens of the kingdom of heaven or of the kingdom of darkness. We are children of God or children of the devil. We have been left in the spiritual death wherewith we came into this world, or we are those who by God's grace were born again with heavenly life. And all this counts!"
Quoted from The Pastor's Study, "Pleasure In What Pleases God."

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EDITOR'S NOTES
AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 1990

BY DAVID HARBACH

We want to thank Redlands Protestant Reformed Church Young People's Society for hosting this year's convention. From what I have heard, those who attended enjoyed the good Christian fellowship and discussions. The planning and actual carrying out of the plans takes many dedicated people who are willing to give of their time and energies for the cause of God's kingdom and young people. We thank our faithful Covenant God for such hard working faithful people in our churches, who give their best effort to guide our young people in the truth. A special convention issue will only be prepared for the conventioneers. If other of you would like to receive this special issue then send a request to: Beacon Lights P.O. Box 375, Jenison, MI 49428.

By now you have noticed the change in the cover of the "Beacon Lights". But have you noticed the change in the type style and the addition of a new "footer" at the bottom of each page? With the purchase of some new computer technology, our typesetter, Mr. Jim Van Overloop, is now able to produce each entire issue on computer with little paste

up, and guarantee, that if something goes wrong with the copy, he can quickly produce another copy of the same issue. Also, he has the ability to scan past articles for editing if we decide to put them into booklet form, thereby eliminating the need to typeset the articles over again. As our typesetter becomes accustomed to the new equipment we have provided for him, look for his personal touch in each issue.

Prof. Hanko continues his series on "To Lose The Battle and Win the War: Chapter III - The Issues In The Battle (1)." The articles in this chapter will look at the issues in some detail beginning with Prof. Janssen's denial of the infallible inspiration of Scripture.

Do you find pleasure in the sins wherein the world abounds? I'm not asking, do you actually do the same sins that the world commits, but do you take pleasure in your soul in the sins of the world? For an excellent sanctified look into the life of God's children read "Pleasure in What Pleases God," by Rev. John A. Heys. You will want to read this article more than once for it is filled with the wisdom of God that will help you to remain faithful to God as a young person in the world of today.

Rev. Lubbers continues with his second interesting article on "The Biblical Teaching On 'Sympathy.' " Our tested warrior concentrates on the "Sympathizing High Priest: Jesus." Read and enjoy this wonderful truth about our Lord.

"Learning God's Will Concerning One's Vocation" is the last of the outlines prepared by Pastors Charles Terpstra and Ronald Van Overloop for the 1989 Fall Retreat. We hope that you will use these outlines in your society for the godly instruction that we need in living as God's people in today's world. We thank our two faithful Pastors for providing these outlines for our societies to use.

If meaning in life is not found in certain positions in life, nor in certain studies, nor in intellect or riches, where then is it to be found? Mrs. Brands provides us with an answer in Letter #6 Ecclesiastes 1:12-18, "Six Reasons Solomon Wrote Ecclesiastes."

Lora has provided us with the Church News through July of this year. Thanks Lora, we appreciate your love for keeping us informed of what is happening in our churches.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find three short articles: "Who Cares What They Wear?" by Emily Eldersveld, "Friendliness And Generosity For God's Sake" by Holly Ondersma, and "Beware Of Temptation" by John Huizinga. Emily and Holly wrote their articles for course work at Covenant High School, Grand Rapids. Emily's article fits in well for the beginning of another school year when "have to have" styles of clothing rule your life for another 180 days. A kindness remembered by Holly from many years ago becomes the avenue for Christian instruction in the same today. John, who hails from Randolph, Wisconsin, reminds us of the importance of standing strong in the faith. You'll appreciate these three articles and that is why we extend a hearty, "Thank you" to Emily, Holly and John.

In the October issue look

for a historical article, addressed to young people, not from a past "Beacon Lights" issue, but from a past "Standard Bearer" issue.

As editor of "Beacon Lights" it is always a joy to see first hand the faithfulness of God's young people as you carry out your God given responsibilities in the church and in the world. The last two paragraphs are meant to encourage you further as you strive to lead each other in the way of godliness.

Did you sleep in church? Well then, wake up and get with it! Don't expect to lead each other in the way of godliness if you sleep in church. Leaders must be faithful in all areas of life, especially in the hearing of Christ, the Head of the Church. If you sleep while sitting under the preaching of the Word of God, you turn deaf ears to Christ. And never does the church experience a more rapid decline in godliness than when you refuse to hear and live what Christ tells you to do. Wake up and pay attention to Christ, Who gives to you His sufficient, leader needing, grace through the preaching of His Word.

Did you stay awake in church? Well then, be joyful, for great is your reward. Through listening and living according to the Word that you hear, God prepares and enables you to lead each other in the way of godliness. Faithful leaders are an encouragement to His people for you show by example that listening to the Head of the Church is a privilege to be regarded with high honor and necessary for life as a child of God. And never does the church experience a more fervent love for the cause of God's Kingdom than when you listen and live what Christ tells you to do. What a blessed privilege to receive His sufficient, leader needing, grace through the preaching of His Word. It is all of Him.

LEARNING GOD'S WILL
CONCERNING ONE'S VOCATION

by Rev. Terpstra and Rev. Van Overloop

I. Specific Principles of Scripture concerning work or vocation.
   A. Work is necessary and noble, for God Himself is an ever-active God.
      1. God created man to work, to be active and productive, and not to sit contemplating or to be inactive. Genesis 1:28; 2:15.
      2. Man' s fall into sin did not change God's purpose to labor, nor did it change God's command to work. The fall only changed

the nature of the work, so it is with sorrow and sweat (Genesis 3:16-19). None of man's inventions are capable of removing this sorrow and sweat, for it will be "till thou return unto the ground" (Genesis 3:19).

3. God further showed the necessity and nobility of work by including the command to work for six days of the week in the Fourth Commandment. True Sabbath rest is impossible with out knowing the activity and productiveness of work. So it was with God in His creating. So it certainly is with man.
4. Solomon gives his inspired wisdom concerning the matter of work by condemning slothfulness and the sluggard and by commending the diligent.
5. Jesus and Paul are proper examples of the necessity and nobility of work.
   a. Jesus was known to be a carpenter (Mark 6: 3) sweating and toiling in manual labor for well over ten years.
   b. Paul set his own working "with his hands" as an example to the saints at Corinth and at Thessalonica (I Cor. 1:12 with Acts 18:3,1).
6. Work is seen as so noble that one who persists in not working is condemned as worthy of excommunication (I Thess. 3:9-16).

B. Therefore, work is honorable and also desirable for the Christian.
   1. Work is not something to be avoided as a necessary evil, nor is it to he sought merely as an inescapable reality.
   2. Every lawful vocation is honorable, whether it be blue-or white-collar, in or outside the home.
      a. Legitimate labor is that which is not in itself or in its con text in violation of God's law. E. g. being a locksmith is legitimate, but not when it is used to steal.
      b. God made Adam to be a "common" gardener and Jesus was a carpenter. Both performed what today's society might call menial, manual labor.
   3. Every lawful vocation is honorable because it can be means with which the Christian glorifies God.

II. In finding our life's work we have to keep in mind what was said in general above.
   A. There are no quick, easy ways to know what God wants us to do.
      1. God' s will in vocation does not "drop from the sky" nor does the Bible have any clear commands: "Do this work!"
      2. Rather do we have to be guided by the general principles taught in God's Word and by prayer, as well as by the knowl edge of ourselves. Then we make rational, wise choices.
   B. Sinclair Ferguson in the book mentioned above (pp. 75-89) gives us four basic things to consider in determining what God's will is for us in vocation:
      1. Mark out the possibilities; narrow the fields in which we can and may labor.

2. Consider your gifts. Are we more intellectually inclined? Do we have communication skills? Are we suited for manual labor? Seek the counsel of others in this, especially your parents, but also teachers, pastors, friends, etc.
3. Consider the needs. We are to serve God and His cause in our work. What needs are there and how can we best meet these needs with our gifts. Consider your personal desires. What careers interest us and are appealing to our natural disposi tions?

C. Above all, take to heart the words of Proverbs 3: 5,6, Trust in the LORD with a11 thine heart; and lean not unto thine own under standing. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

III. Questions concerning seeking vocations.

A. May all occupations be considered "callings" or do only teachers and ministers have "callings" while all others are just "jobs", Why or why not?
B. Are there careers we know we may not pursue and hold - that God's will specifically prohibits? What would these be?
C. What ought to motivate us in considering our life's work? What must not motivate us?
D. What things should we look for in ourselves that may help us determine what vocation we should seek? Does the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:11-30) have anything to do about this?
E. What role does our education play in determining our calling? If after high school we are unsure of what we ought to do, should we go on to college, and if so, what kind of college - liberal arts, etc.?
F. What role ought the influence and work of our parents' broth ers/sisters, and friends have in finding our life's calling?
G. Do need (e.g. the need for ministers, teachers, doctors, etc.) and personal - interest ("This career looks challenging to me?") alone determine whether we should enter a given field of work?
H. Concerning the ministry. Someone has said that every young man should consider the ministry first and foremost ahead of all other vocations. Another has said that if you cannot be anything else, become a minister. Which do you think is more correct? Or are they equally true?
I. What factors and considerations should determine a young woman's pursuit of a career? Should (or even may) a young woman who plans to marry and be a homemaker even pursue a career as a teacher, nurse, etc.?
J. Discuss Ferguson's four considerations for discovering what voca tion to pursue.
K. Discuss Ferguson's six principles of conduct that must govern our minds and wills as we seek a calling.
L. What comforting truths must we keep in mind as we seek to dis cover God's will for our lives?

ECCLESIASTES 1:12-18

LETTER #6

Six Reasons Why Solomon Wrote Ecclesiastes

by Mrs. H. Brands

Today we should finish our study of Solomon's introduction to his sermon by finishing Chapter 1. As you recall from last time, Chapter 1:2-11 introduced the theme of the book, "All labor is useless apart from God." Now in verses 12-18, the end, he explains how it is that he came to preach this sermon.

This really should not seem surprising as a way of introduction, should it? Many ministers begin their sermons still today by explaining why they choose to preach a particular sermon. Many books, also, have a prologue in which the author explains how it is that he came to write that particular book. And Solomon also chose to explain ahead of time why he is preaching this particular sermon.

As we look through his explanation of why he preached this sermon, notice that one common thread runs through his explanation. He does not merely consider this to be one sermon among many others; rather, he considers this to be the fundamental sermon which God's people need to hear! It is a basic sermon, something which involves all men.

Notice, too, that although he is searching throughout all the world among all mankind for their false solutions to the value of work, he is addressing only God's people in his sermon. He is speaking as the "king in Jerusalem" to the Israelites, God's people. It is they who need to realize that the godly answer to life's problems is not a weird answer but rather the only answer. The world, too, may listen to the sermon, but, unless God calls them to become also His people, they will reject the message and continue a vain search for meaning in philosophy after philosophy throughout all of history. They cannot hear this Word of the Preacher.

Let's look now at why Solomon chose to preach this sermon. He makes six points explaining how it is that he is preaching what he is preaching.

Point 1 (verse 12): He is KING in Israel. He isn't here merely repeating who it is that is writing the book. Rather, he is implying that because he is king, he has a position of leadership and responsibility for this people of God. He is RESPONSIBLE for Israel and he takes this responsibility seriously. As king, he also possesses the power and ability to carry out this search, which most people would not have had the

ability to do.

Point 2 (verse 13a): He has made a study to find out the underlying principle which rules all that is done on this earth. That's an important study, to be sure! He doesn't merely look for a definition underlying all philosophy or artwork or just government or just agriculture or other occupations, but he wants to find the governing principle behind all things done on earth.

Point 3 (verse 13b): He considers this to be his CALLING.It is the calling not only of him, not only of God's people, but of everyone, actually, head for head. If it is our calling, we must do it, right?! And Solomon is helping God's people to carry out this calling which everyone has and which is his also.

Point 4 (verses 14-15): How many men can honestly say that they have seen samples of "all the works that are done under the sun"? Probably none! Yet God had promised—and He kept His promise—to give Solomon more wisdom than anyone before or after him...and that wisdom was exactly to understand all things that happen on this earth in their ethical essence. So Solomon had exceptional contacts with men from around the world in all stations of life, equipping him uniquely for this task.

Point 5 (verse 16): Not only did Solomon have exceptional overview of the activities of people around the world, but he also had exceptional experiences of personal achievement. He had not been a "jack of all trades, master of none" but had rather been a MASTER of all trades! As king, no earthly king excelled him. No one was richer than he was. No one had finer gardens and orchards. No one had more and better horses. No one had finer fields and foods. His servants were dedicated and hard-working, already second generation. He had the finest musicians anywhere. He had unexcelled wisdom.

His personal achievements qualified him for this important task of evaluating the value of labor.

Point 6 (verses 17-18): Apparently, one more thing prompted him to search for the underlying meaning of things, and this was that he realized that people often had misconceptions of things. Some people thought that an increase in wisdom would give joy...but Solomon had learned that "in much wisdom is much grief". Other people forsook wisdom and sought joy through "madness and folly", that is, living for pleasure and sin. Solomon had to show people that these misconceptions were all wrong and that meaning in life was not to be found in certain positions in life, not in certain studies, not in intellect or riches (or the lack of them), but rather in Godliness, which transcends all else.

These six reasons given by Solomon should also show us why it is important to study this book. Like Israel of the Old Testament, it is our calling to fight to keep all things in perspective (a difficult job!) We, too, need to understand that it is not certain abilities which can give us meaning in life, nor certain positions in life which can make life enjoyable, but that all things in life apart from God are

meaningless. But if we patiently submit to God then true blessedness can be found anywhere, in any station in life and under any circumstances.

Our prayer, as we study this book and always, must be that God give us the grace to submit to His rule and to know that He works all things for our good. May we not murmur at our situation in life but submit to His wise rule of all things for our blessing as His children! God does give us His blessing for we are His children in Christ Jesus and so all our work on this life is meaningful. Our work is blessed and will last forever!

Letter #6. Theme: ECCLESIASTES 1:12-18:

"Six Reasons Solomon Wrote ECCLESIASTES"

Questions

1. Many commentaries make these verses the first section of Solomon's experiences, going with chapter two.
(a) Can you give arguments in favor of doing this?
(b) Can you give arguments to support making this Part of the INTRODUCTION, Solomon showing why he wrote the book?

2. How important does Solomon consider his "sermon" or book to be? Show this from the verses themselves.

3. Name the six reasons why Solomon wrote this book.

II. THE BIBLICAL TEACHING ON "SYMPATHY"

by Rev. G. Lubbers

"For in that he himself suffered, being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted" Heb. 2:18

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all parts tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Heb. 4:15

In our first article we learned that God is the fountain and standard of all sympathy in heaven and on earth. He is such in His elective love for His people. It is a very unique and particular compassion of bowels of merciful loving kindness! It is higher than heaven and deeper than hell, as well as matchless and measureless. Never can it be comprehended as a glorious virtue of God by us. We believe with the heart. We take God at His word!

We will in this installment attempt to learn that this great compassion of God to us is ours in our great high priest in heaven. Is his NAME not JESUS? Does this name not mean JEHOVAH saves His people from their sins?

It is a pivotal and basic confession of our faith that the Babe in Bethlehem, lying in a manger, was the eternal Son of God in human flesh! Have you noticed carefully that in Ques. 29 of the Heidelberg Catechism it is asked, "Why is the Son of God called Jesus? and not why did Mary call her baby boy "Jesus"? For the angel explained to the shepherds "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord". This Jesus was more than "that man of Galilee", the mere sentimentally sympathetic man. Here we deal with "God manifested in flesh . . . preached in the world, taken up in glory (I Tim. 3:16). Of this there can be no doubt in the Church of God, which is the pillar and ground of the truth!

There is great instruction for us concerning the sympathy of Jesus, yea, of His ability to succour, to come to us to help in deepest empathy of love. And this ability Jesus has not simply as an understanding individual among men, but He has this ability as our great High Priest in the temple behind the vail, where He even lived to pray, to intercede for us.

Jesus, our high priest "walked in our shoes". No, He did not walk in the experiences merely of all mankind, but He walked in the peculiar temptations which are the lot of God's people upon whom the Spirit of God rests. He walked in the theater where there is all the suffering of this present time. We are assured that all this suffering is not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Rom. 8:18).

It was human suffering by a Divine person, by God Himself in our flesh. This was suffering by the person of the Son in the days of His flesh. In this suffering He was tempted. When we inquire most minutely into this compassionate suffering of temptation by JESUS, we learn that in its deepest essence, this was the compassion (suffering with) that mercy which was manifested within the most holy place on the mercy-seat upon the Ark of the Testimony. It was God meeting us in our sin, guilt and temptations and weaknesses.

There is great instruction for us in the text which we quoted from Heb. 2:18. There we are told that Jesus, the great High Priest, the captain of our salvation is exceeding able to reach down to our level of temptations. Our temptations are all connected with sin, with stumblings like that of Peter and David in their darkest hours (II Sam. 11:1ff. and Matt. 26:69-75). O, awful hours of temptations of the best of the saints. May we say that Jesus was tempted just as these saints were, and as we are, so that He is able to help us, succour, lift us from the miry morass of sinful lust and set us at liberty with a free and good conscience once again? I believe that such is the implication and teaching of Heb. 2:17, 18. Did not Jesus often show fathomless compassion for sinners of the deepest dye? Did he not eat and drink with

publicans and sinners right over the protests of Pharisees and Scribes of His day (Luke 15:1ff; Matt. 11:16-19)?

What a sensitive compassion and empathy is Jesus' to be sure!

Is it not a fine touch in the KJV translation of Heb. 4:15 where they translate the Greek verb "sympatheesai" (to suffer with) with that matchless: able to be touched with our infirmities. Notice that infirmities is in the plural. Many, many are the temptations of but one saint. O, the manifold temptations of the numberless throng who have their raiments washed in the blood of the Lamb!

Here we have revealed the tender care of the Shepherd of Israel for each bleating sheep, far and near. High as the heavens and wide as the ocean is the love of our Savior. What Divine depths of sympathy - empathy. Small wonder that the Spirit writes through Paul in Ephesians 3:14ff. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, . . . that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."

In deepest reverence we take off the shoes from our feet and we worship and adore the great compassion of God in JESUS, our High Priest and apostle!

Notice, that this Jesus is made like unto us, his brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. Yes, in the terrible outcry "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me" there is the tempted Savior, tempted as not man, or angel in heaven or hell ever was or shall be!

Here we see the horrible blasphemy of an human "Passionspiel"! What human mortal ever was thus tempted suffering the agonies of hell for His people?!

But now we take one hard look at who this JESUS is, do we not? and we learn from the Bible that He is the priest according to the order of Melchizedek, who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him Who was able to save Him from death . . . though He were a Son, learned He obedience by the things He suffered! Heb. 5:6-10.

He is the Jesus Who came to save His people from their sins, the sympathizing Shepherd of Israel, God and man in one Person. He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him! We were saved that we should love as were are loved, and also be touched with the feeling of the infirmities of all the fellow-saints in Christ Jesus.

God willing we shall study that mystery of godliness in our next installment.

To Lose The Battle and Win The War
The Janssen Case
Chapter III
THE ISSUES OF THE BATTLE (1)

by Prof. H. Hanko

In the last articles we discussed the history of the Janssen case, a case which formed such an important part of the history of our own churches. In this article and succeeding ones, we are going to concentrate on the issues in the controversy.

These were the issues which were discussed in hundreds of homes of Christian Reformed members, preached about in dozens of pulpits, written on in every church periodical published within the denomination, and debated at length in various ecclesiastical assemblies. They were considered by most to be issues of critical importance which would decide whether or not the church was to remain orthodox and sound in doctrine or whether the church was now to start a long the dreary road of apostasy.

When Janssen was accused of teaching false doctrine in his Seminary classroom, he really never challenged his accusers' description of what he taught. Even if it was by silence he admitted that he indeed taught what his fellow professors said he taught. But admitting that he taught these things, he attempted to defend them as being true and right. And, finally, he defended them by appealing to the doctrine of common grace.

This is what makes this controversy over Janssen's teaching so important to us, for it was this appeal to common grace on Janssen's part which led up to the controversy in 1924 which resulted in the suspension of Revs. Hoeksema and Danhof and the beginning of the Protestant Reformed Churches.

However before we take a look at how Janssen defended himself by appealing to the doctrine of common grace, we ought to have a clear understanding of what errors Janssen actually taught.

If we could sum up Janssen's errors in a few words, we would say that Janssen defended higher critical views of Scripture.

So we must ask the question first of all: What is meant by higher critical views of Scripture?

Without going into detail on this whole question, it is sufficient for our purposes to understand that, especially in Germany (where Janssen had studied and obtained one of his degrees), universities were attacking the truth of the inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture. They were arguing that

Scripture was nothing more than a human book which contained in it a great deal of information concerning early religious beliefs of various people, especially the Hebrew people.

In making Scripture a human book, they, quite naturally, also denied the miracles of Scripture as being scientifically impossible, and, therefore, the superstitious beliefs of early people who were rather naive in their view of the world about them.

Janssen had been affected by his instruction in Germany and did much the same thing in his teaching in Seminary, although he succeeded in making his teaching sound more Reformed than the blatant denial of Scripture's inspiration which was taught in Germany. In fact, every time that Janssen was asked whether he believed in the infallible inspiration of Scripture, his response was a resounding, Yes!

Nevertheless, this was a deception on Janssen's part and not an honest statement at all.

So we ought to take a closer view of what Janssen actually taught concerning some of the issues involved in higher criticism.

In some form or fashion, Janssen denied the truth of the infallible inspiration of Scripture.

It is a very strange fact, however, that in all Janssen's teachings in Seminary he did not discuss the question of Scripture' s inspiration very much. This in itself was more than passing strange. After all, Dr. Janssen was professor of Old Testament studies; and one would think that in discussing the Old Testament, one would surely discuss very thoroughly the whole truth of inspiration. This would be especially true when the views of higher criticism in Europe, and especially Germany, were coming into this country.

But Janssen never talked about these things.

He did, however, tip his hand and give indications of what he believed by many other things which he taught. He gave himself away, so to speak, in other ways. He could not really hide what he believed.

And in spite of the fact that he said he maintained a firm faith in the truth of Scripture's inspiration, it became clear that in reality, he did not.

"Grant, Almighty God, since Thou showest Thy regard for mutual fidelity between man and man, that we may so conduct ourselves in every way that we may not deceive our brethren, but assist each other with sincere affection: Grant, also that with true consent we may afford Thee that confidence which Thou requirest, and which we are bound to pay Thee; since Thou deignest not only to enter into covenant with us by means of Thine only-begotten Son, but also to seal it with His blood, until we enjoy that inheritance which Thou hast obtained for us by the sacrifice of his death. Amen."

-Prayer of John Calvin (concluding his lecture on Ezek. 17)

PLEASURE IN WHAT PLEASES GOD

by Rev. John A. Heys

By nature, young people, we are all part of one human race that it pleased our covenant God to bring into being. At the Tower of Babel He did divide that one human race into different nations, tongues and tribes, so that today there are many different nations, tongues and tribes all over this earth. But what is important to understand and hold on to is the fact that from a spiritual point of view it pleased God to make the whole human race become divided into only two different kinds of people. It is not important whether our skin is white or black, red or yellow. The important thing is not what language we speak. It is not even serious who our physical fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers are. Where on this earth you live likewise is not the important question.

What is important is not where we have been born but with what kind of life we now live. The whole human race, because of God's sovereign election, is divided into only two kinds of people. We are believers or unbelievers. We are citizens of the kingdom of heaven or of the kingdom of darkness. We are children of God or children of the devil. We have been left in the spiritual death wherewith we came into this world, or we are those who by God's grace were born again with heavenly life. And all this counts!

Bearing all this in mind we find Paul writing to the Romans an awesome truth. He writes about those not born again, those who, although physically alive, are spiritually dead and have not been born again with a new spiritual life. Of them he states in the first chapter, and in its last verses, that they are "Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

It is that last element here that we should hold on to and consider seriously. The important and awesome question is whether we find pleasure in all these sins which Paul mentions; but also and especially whether we have pleasure in that seed of the serpent, of which God spoke when Adam and Eve committed that first sin. The Greek word that Paul uses here

means to "think well" of these sinners. To have pleasure in them is to think well of them.

We should stand in awe before what Paul writes, because we live in a far more evil day than he did when he wrote these words. There were some very evil days in the past. Because of them God sent that flood in order to save one family. Get that, young people, ONE FAMILY was saved in the ark! Some time later He stopped an host of unbelievers under Satan's power from building the tower of Babel, so that a few righteous souls might not be wiped out by these children of darkness, who were seeking to make one world, and to wipe out those who loved God. In Genesis 6:5 we read, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart were only evil continually." Note those three words: every, only and continually. Then too in verses 11 and 12 we read, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth."

Now if that was true in that day, how much more it is true today! For today we have so many inventions and tools which they did not have before the flood, and were not there when the Tower of Babel was being built. Remember, young people, that with all our amazing inventions and achievements sin is far more bold and widespread.

You were not born yet and able to see how much less men sinned then, and how much more fully, and in many new ways, man can and does sin today. You were not here, or were too young to notice it, but there was a time, which we of the older generation remember and experienced, when the Sabbath was not so fully corrupted the way it is today. Not too many years ago it was almost unthinkable in our country to see a grocery store, a shoe store, or even a gasoline station open on Sunday! But today it is almost unbelievable to expect to see a store in a mall closed and having a sign declaring that the Sabbath must be used to serve the almighty and holy God Who gives us life, and upon Whose earth we are living. There was a time, not too long ago, when colleges and high schools would not have basketball or football games on Sunday. How different it is today!

We of the older generation remember when there was hardly an automobile available for all the going here and there on the Sabbath for worldly pleasure and amusements. There were no airplanes to speed you across the land for satisfying pleasures of the flesh rather than to enjoy spiritual matters in God's house. And what about the radios and television sets that today can bring the world and its haters of God so very close to you! Today we can hear and even see — and sad to say some church members will even resort to it on Sunday — those who hate God, and we can find pleasure in these sinners and in their works!

There was a time when you could not steal as easily as now. The sinful pleasures and delights of the world are so much more

abundant, because we can do so many things more in a day than they could in times past. Even as a tree grows and brings forth more fruit, so the human race grows in sinfulness and produces more and more sin. One can only wonder that God does not come, as He did with that flood and with the confusion of man's speech. We certainly are rushing to the end of time, and the measure of iniquity is filling up rapidly today.

But the point that should be made here, and is so very, very important, is this: Do you have pleasure in these sins wherein the world abounds? Are you one of those who has pleasure in them who sin in so many ways and with so many things? Do you find pleasure rather than disgust in these unbelievers who walk so boldly and openly in sin?

Get once again that statement of Paul that those people have pleasure in them that commit these sins. That pleasure manifests itself in performing these same sins in the soul! And God sees them in the soul as well as being performed by the body. And now today we are so very, very close to the days of the antichrist, as Satan is preparing the way more fully for that chief tool of the devilish acts whereby he is trying to keep the Kingdom of Heaven from being realized in its perfection. That is why the apostle John wrote almost 2,000 years ago, "Little children, it is the last hour: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even as now there are many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last hour." I John 2:18.

The big question is whether, when the unbelievers, who even when they do not openly break the second table of God's law, break the first table openly and very boldly, you enjoy companionship with these godless people and find pleasure in them in their deviltry. You may have to work with them in a store, factory or other place where it takes a group to work together. But when they take God's name in vain, does it bother you? Do you continue to have a lot of respect for them, even though they do this so often? Do you remain silent because you want to keep their friendship? Are you more concerned about them than about God and His glory? The question is not merely whether you let them know how much you hate those Gee, Gosh, and Golly words which they use, and whether they do not seem so bad as when they use the name of God. What about that word luck which is so widely and often used by the world? Do you put God aside and His sovereignty and grace, and have the idol Luck as the one who decides what is going to happen to you? Listen, the only time we may use that word luck is when we condemn its use as the sin of idolatry.

Then, too, remember, as already pointed out, that the word here translated as pleasure literally means "think well." Do you think well of the unbelievers in their speech and conduct? We must not think well of those committing all those sins which Paul lists in Romans 1:29-32. Let us strive more and more to walk in a way that reveals pleasure in God's law and in serving Him with our whole being. Watch your tongue

and walk in a way that reveals that you think well of God and of His holy law.

Yes, I knew a man who found so much pleasure in the world's Sabbath breakers playing baseball on the Sabbath that he—in those days when there were no television sets, not even black and white ones—had his radio on, even upon a Sabbath day, while eating his evening meal, and shut it down—mind you, not off but with less volume—while he read the Bible and prayed!! Did he think well of God and of His Christ when he did that? Did he really find pleasure in reading the Word of God? And how awful for us today if we are so full of it and concerned about the sports of mankind on Sunday as well as on the rest of the days of the week! We can so easily place this man or this team above Christ! This team's victory means more to us than salvation. And what Christ did for us is of less significance to us.

But, young people, do not brush aside that first table of God's law. We must maintain all of it in order to keep any one of the commandments in the second table. Not wanting physical misery the world will try to make men keep from murder, theft, lying and adultery. But if we have an idol in place of God, we will feel free to take His name in vain, and desecrate the Sabbath. we will find pleasure in those who hate Him and will think well of them.

However, we cannot go eastward and westward at the same time. We cannot be going up an hill and down it at the same time. Neither can we walk in love toward God and at the same time find pleasure and think well of those who hate Him.

Let us be very careful then as to what we say, but also as to what we want to hear being said. Let us be careful, not only as far as what we will not do on the Sabbath day, but also as to what we will and want to do on that holy day. Let our God, through Paul, warn us to flee from sin and sinners with our hearts and minds as well as with our hands and feet.

May our covenant God work powerfully in you and make you find pleasure in that which pleases Him.

In this confession, "I believe in God," the church the individual believer declare that God is GOD. He is the transcendent One, Who dwelleth in the light no man can approach unto. He is the Holy One of Israel, the Incomparable, that cannot be likened to any creature. He cannot be classified or defined. Human logic can never reach Him. In this sense, all the so-called "proofs" for the existence of God must be considered failures. . . . But God is the Infinite, He transcends the finite; He is the Eternal, He transcends time; He is the Invisible, He transcends the whole world of our experience; He is the Immutable, He transcends all the flux of existence; He is not the First Cause, nor the Cause of causes, as philosophy has called its God, but He is simple Being: He transcends all causes He is GOD.

Herman Hoeksema, The Triple Knowledge, Vol. I

WHO CARES WHAT STYLE THEY WEAR?

by Emily Eldersveld

Everybody wears clothes. Everybody wears different kinds of clothes for different reasons. Teenagers especially like to experiment with the new fashions to be "in". But the emphasis put on fashion these days is bad for American teenagers.

True, fashion today helps people express themselves—even makes them express their personality. Certain clothes show how much or how little a person cares about his looks. Some people dress for success and get it. Fashion emphasis does make most teens dress more nicely. More kids care about how they look, which is important. For example, almost everyone here at Covenant dresses nicely and looks good.

But clothes these days aren't cheap to buy. Obtaining the all-important new styles gets very expensive. Teens and parents soon find their pockets empty because the kids just "have to have" that new outfit, shoes, or jacket.

Although some fashions compel students to dress nicer, many so-called styles that are "in" today make kids look sloppy. Those torn jeans and jackets and wrinkled clothes can be more expensive than the dress pants and sweaters that most students at Covenant wear. Teenagers are seen on T.V., in the malls, and on the street wearing those "rebel clothes" that look like they just went through a war.

Teens want to have the "in" fashions that the people on T.V. and in magazines wear. Their friends buy new clothes and they want to keep up with the new look. Soon, the importance of clothes to teenagers leads to covetousness, jealousy, and competition between fellow teens and peers. All of those are bad in kids' lives. Christians know that the Bible warns about the sins of jealousy and covetousness.

With all the competition going on, kids give in to peer pressure. In the American society, especially with kids in high school, peer pressure is ever-present. If someone doesn't dress the right way or is slightly unstylish according to someone's opinion, he gets ridiculed and mocked. Some people will make judgments about him behind his back or in whispers as he walks by. This is wrong. Someone shouldn't get a reputation for being queer just because he dresses a little differently from everyone else.

Such things shouldn't occur, but they do, because of the

importance put on style and fashion these days. It's okay for teens to keep up with the styles if they want to, or have the money for it, but it isn't really that important what people wear. Everybody wears different types of clothes. Who cares what style they wear?

FRIENDLINESS AND GENEROSITY FOR GOD'S SAKE

By Holly Ondersma

Friendliness, generosity and sympathy are all different ways to be kind and should affect us all in some aspect of our lives as children of God.

Kindness was shown to my mother when she was seven years old and her mother was in the hospital with her newly born premature son. A family friend took my mother into her home, looked after her, and even helped her across busy intersections as she walked several blocks to school. Now this same woman is in need of help today as she lies helpless in a rest home. Since my mother remembers this kindness that she was shown as a girl, she repays with many frequent visits to her. My mother learned to look for people who are in need of help and do the best she can to help them.

Kindness is closely associated with love and charity for the child of God I John 4:10 portrays this love. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins." God showed His kindness by sending His Son to die for us and give us eternal life with Him in heaven. As a result of this salvation, we produce good works, one of which is kindness.

Titus 3:4 explains "that the kindness and love of God, our Saviour, toward man appeared." I John 4:11 says, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." We can't show this love for our neighbor without being kind to him. Rev. Herman Hoeksema tries to make this clear in his book, Love Thy Neighbor for God's Sake, explaining Lord's Day 39-44: "When God forbids envy, hatred and anger, He commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves; to show patience, peace, meekness, mercy and all kindness towards him . . . as much as in us lies."

If we have the readiness that we ought to have in us to demonstrate God's word and how it affects us, then this must spur on kindness toward friends and enemies.

In II Samuel 9, David showed this when he sought to

show kindness for at least one of Saul's kin, even when Saul tried to kill him several times. Paul was willing to take the blame of Onesimus, recorded in Philemon, verses 17-19.

As one wise person once said, "Be kind to one another; for if you look into a mirror when you are happy and then when you are angry, you would see how differently you appear on each occasion." It is true that a person feels much better about himself if he helps someone in need; however, the real motive should be to honor and glorify God's name and not ourselves.

BEWARE OF TEMPTATION

by John Huizinga

We as God's people are living in a physical land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey. A land where nearly every desire can be serviced. Satan is working as hard as ever, and his temptations especially catch the attention of our generation. He dangles the movie before our eyes, prods us on with our peers, and astounds us with the power and thrill of rock music. He is trying to draw us away from our refuge, the Word of God, the church, and her doctrine so that he may crush our very foundation of doctrine and truth.

This is no trivial matter. We find our time spent trying to justify just one movie, a little rock music, and it's only a stage of life. We soon lose our bearing and can no longer find a foothold because we have forgotten what we were fighting for. We forget our deliverance in the Reformation. We forget God's guidance of His church in the wilderness of trials. We forget what sets us apart from the world and the apostate church.

As young people we have a tendency to draw a contrast between the Bible times and our modern day. Higher education tends to glory in the wisdom and knowledge of man. We imagine somehow that the examples God gives us of man's falling in sin, and warnings do not apply in this modern day and age.

The fact remains, we are no different from the Israelites.

We may think it absurd when they imagined that they did right when they made a golden calf to lead them. How foolish, we imagine, can people be to worship stone and wood. How shocking it is to us when we read that God smote Uzza for the seeming good deed of steadying the ark.

Do not be fooled when the golden calf takes the form of

"Christian" rock. Know the dangers of our modern wood and stone in the form of cars, stereos, computers, etc. Be careful when you say "It's no big deal!". Evil today is wrapped in packages so terribly subtle and tempting to us. How can we withstand?

The devil is quietly and carefully undermining the road ahead, the future generation. He is careful not to go too fast lest the parents become alarmed. Yet he is steady and covers the progress carefully. Now and then the cover slips and we catch a glimpse of the treachery but we are too busy to bother with it and put up our own little blind.

Don't be quiet! Don't be afraid of your peers! Tear down the blind despite the threats of those opposed to the church, and reveal the monstrous work of the devil! We must be able to see before we can destroy. Fight! For the battle is the Lord's! We need not be afraid or despair. God has filled the Old Testament with examples of His fighting for the Israelites.

God is our only refuge and strength. By nature we are all prone to desire that which is evil. Prayer is our primary defense. We have the advantage of being able to read in God's Word of the sins of God's people and the consequences. Pray that God will reveal the comparison as you read God's Word.

Pray to God that you will be given the strength to flee temptation when it appears. Pray that God will give you a desire to read His Word and listen to the preaching and instruction. Pray that God will give knowledge and wisdom to use the weapons of His Word against the wiles of the devil.

Pray to God that our eyes may be opened, that we may see how great our danger is, and that we may know the blinding, deafening, and intoxicating affect of our society.

Only when we humbly pray can we see our sinful straying from the path. Only when the Word of God is preached can we see God's guiding hand. Only when sound doctrine is maintained can we see the difference between the true and apostate church.

As the future generation of the church, we must flee from the things of the world so that the Word may be preached. We must fight so that the doctrine set forth in the Bible will be maintained.

Study God's Word, listen in church and catechism, and notice the faithfulness of God in His promise. He promised a Savior to Adam and Eve, delivered Noah and his family from wickedness and the destroying flood, brought Israel from bondage in Egypt, preserved a remnant in Israel, and sent His Son to die for our sins. God continues to gather His people from the far corners of the world and has purged His church in the Protestant Reformation and our split in 1924. What we believe is nothing new. Nor is it too old. What we believe is of great value!

Stand strong in faith, knowing that God will never forsake His church. Pray to God for deliverance from temptation that we forget not God's faithfulness, nor the doctrinal truths for which our church stands.

"I Will Not Leave Thee"

God is with us in our sorrows. There is no pang that rends the heart, I might almost say, not one which disturbs the body, but what Jesus Christ has been with us in it all.

Feel you the sorrows of poverty? He"hath not where to lay His head."

Do you endure the grief of bereavement? Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus.

Have you been slandered for righteousness' sake, and has it vexed your spirit? He said, "Reproach hath broken My heart."

Have you been betrayed? Do not forget that He, too, had His familiar friend who sold Him for the price of a slave.

On what stormy seas have you been tossed which have not roared about His boat? Never glen of adversity so dark, so deep, apparently to pathless, but what is stooping down you may discover the footprints of the Crucified One.

In the fires and in the rivers, in the cold night and under the burning sun, He cries, "I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am both thy Companion and thy God."

-Spurgeon

WHAT'S HAPPENED

By Lora Bouwkamp

FIRST PRC, GRAND RAPIDS

Jacob and Mary Poortvliet's papers were transferred to our Southwest PRC.
Mrs. Irene Newhouse celebrated her 82nd birthday April 29.
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Gustafson celebrate the birth of John Carl May 9. Baptism was administered June 3.
Mr. Adrian Griffioen celebrated his 85th birthday May 19.
We extend our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dykstra in the death of her brother, Chuck VanderWood.
Lori Triesenberg and Scott Bartelds were united in marriage May 25.
The membership papers of Amy Lynn (Triezenberg) Flikkema were transferred to our Southeast PRC.
Mrs. Nellie Doezema celebrated her 89th birthday June 1.
The church picnic was held Saturday, June 9, at Caledonia Lakeside Park.
Mr. Henry Hagedoorn celebrated his 88th birthday June 16.
Mrs. Jean Pastoor's 81st birthday was Sunday, June 17. Their 60th wedding anniversary is also June 17.
The congregation expresses its sympathy to Mr. Ed Spyer and family in the death of his wife, June 21.
Miss Gayetta Kristine Doezema's membership papers have been transferred to our Holland PRC.

SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS

The consistory received the membership papers of Brenda Medema from the Second CRC, Highland, Indiana.
A volleyball/basketball night was held jointly with Peace PRC April 20.
Mrs. Esther Van Baren celebrated her 95th birthday April 25.
Saturday May 12 was the date for the Waffle Breakfast and Car Wash sponsored by the Young People's Society.
On May 6 baptism was administered to the infant children of Earl and Gloria Kamps, Bob and Linda Lenting, Mike and Char Van Baren, and Keith and Cheryl Van Drunen.
On May 2 the consistory received the confession of faith of Clyde Brown and public confession was Sunday, May 27.
We rejoice with Troy and Becky Maatnan in the birth of a son Lukas David, May 8.
Steve and Mary Van Drunen rejoice in the birth of Benjamin Gise, Thursday, May 31.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur De Jong were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Edna Christine.
Duane and May Bruinsma were blessed with a baby boy, Derek John, June 11.
The public confession of faith of Mr. Tim Lobbezoo was scheduled for July 1.
The membership papers of Todd and Kim De Meester were transferred to our Southeast PRC.

HULL, IOWA

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Jathan Jon, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Van Maanen.
Ted Andringa and Audra Bleyenberg were united in marriage June 9.
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Kooiker have been blessed by the birth of a son, Mitchell Jon, June 4.
Mrs. Peter D. Westra's sister Mrs. Mitchell Dick, passed away, June 8.

LOVELAND, COLORADO

The Ladies Circle was planning a pancake breakfast for June 9.
We extend Christian sympathy to Mr. Dan Hanko in the death of his sister, Mrs. Ellen Dick.
A Young Adult's Outing of golf and pizza was held June 22.
The baptized membership papers of Mrs. Carol Griess-Bennett's four children were sent to her home.

LYNDEN, WASHINGTON

The congregation extends it's sympathy to Mr. Bernie Worst in the death of Bernie's father, Mr. Gerrit Worst.
Ed DeBoer and Charlene Molenkamp were united in marriage July 20.
Mr. and Mrs. Smit's son, David John, was baptized July 22.
The sacrament of baptism was administered July 15 to Scott Evan, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Brian Rypstra and to Brantly Mark, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dirk Vander Meulen.
The consistory received the membership of Mr. Richard DeVries from our Randolph PRC.
The communicant membership papers of Mr. Robert Suden were received for the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Everett.
The church picnic was held July 14.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hanko mourn the death of Fred's sister, Ellen Dick.
Amanda Kathleen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hanko, was baptized June 3.

SOUTHWEST, GRAND RAPIDS

The membership papers of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rutgers, Sr. have been sent to Byron Center PRC.
Rev H. Veldman celebrated his 82nd birthday April 20.
Mrs. N. Dykstra celebrated her 92nd birthday April 24.
Miss Lena Koppenol celebrated her 84th birthday May 20.
Mrs. Helen Engelsma's 78th birthday was May 21.
Mr. Seymour Beiboer celebrated his birthday May 25.
The church picnic was held June 2.
Mr. and Mrs. David Rau rejoice in the birth of a girl, Lydia Joy, June 20.
The membership papers of Mr. and

Mrs. Jacob (Mary) Poortvliet have been received from First PRC.

BETHEL ILLINOIS

The membership papers of Phil and Bonnie Kooiker will be coming from Pella, Iowa.
The congregation extends its sympathy to all the relatives of Mr. Abel Bos, especially to his children Mr. and Mrs. Al Stob and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Folkerts.

BYRON CENTER, MICHIGAN

The membership papers of Dave and Kim Holstege were received from Hudsonville PRC and John Knox Presbyterian Church
Shelley Gunnink and Dan Van Dyke were united in marriage June 15.
On June 17, the sacrament of baptism was administered to Aaron Michael, son of Daniel and Rose Bush, Brittany Rae, daughter of Dave and Kim Holstege, and Arielle Michelle, daughter of Tony and Michelle Pomales.
Dan and Kathy Knott were blessed by the birth of a daughter Ashley Kate, June 17.
Kevin and Denise Haan were blessed with a baby boy, Mitchel Jay, June 24.
Miss Carol Miedema (one of our special children) celebrated her 33rd birthday July 3.
We extend our sympathy to Bill and Ardith Oomkes and family in the death of their infant grandson, son of Jim and Mary Brander.
Rick and Jill Elzinga rejoice in the birth of a daughter, Megan Elizabeth, July 20.
Baptism was scheduled July 29 for Ashley Kate Knott and August 5 for Mitchel Jay Haan.

SOUTHEAST, GRAND RAPIDS

The baptism of Curtis Jared Critchlow was administered May 13.
The church picnic was scheduled for June 2.
The public confession of faith of Kathy Pipe was heard May 27.
Mrs. Reitsma celebrated her 89th birthday June 21.
We extend sympathy to John and Elaine Flikkema and family in the death of Elaine's sister-in-law, Theresa Van Solkema.
Mrs. Mary Kamminga celebrated her 92nd birthday July 6.
Sympathy was extended to the Dennis Gleason family in the death of his mother.
Mr. Ted Christman, in the 79th year of his life, made public confession of his faith, July 29.
Membership papers were received for Mrs.Tom (Amy) Flikkema from First PRC and Mr. and Mrs. Todd (Kim) De Meester from South Holland PRC.

HOPE, WALKER

Tim and Linda Van Dyke rejoice in the birth of a son, Justin Timothy, May 1.
We extend our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Dick Kooienga in the death of Dick's brother, Henry.
Mr. Joe King celebrated his 82nd birthday, April 11.
Mr. Dick Kooienga celebrated his 88th birthday July 26.
The membership papers of Leah Kamps were transferred to Grandville PRC.
The membership papers of Keith Noorman were received from Faith

PRC.

IMMANUEL, LACOMBE, CANADA

Sympathy is extended to Mr. Kiner on the death of her grandmother and Mrs. G. Wierenga on the death of her sister-in- law.

REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA

The Pastoor family rejoice in the birth of twin girls, Stacy and Tracy.
Sue Porte celebrated her 88th birthday May 12.
John and Betty Ekema celebrated their 53rd anniversary.
Mrs. Margaret McNeece celebrated her 82nd birthday May 27.
We extend our sympathy to Henry and Karen Meelker in the loss of a child through a miscarriage.
Mrs. Jennie Feenstra celebrated her 90th birthday June 8.
The membership papers of Steve Potjer were received from Faith PRC.
Mr. John Jabaay celebrated his 90th birthday and Mrs. Jo Polder celebrated her 92nd birthday June 14.
The Lord has blessed Dan and Anna Bodbyl with a son, Seth Daniel.

COVENANT, NEW JERSEY

The cousin of Steve Hanko, Ellen Dick, was taken to be with her Lord in glory.

FAITH, JENISON

The membership papers of Dave Korhorn and family have been transferred to southeast PRC.
Tim Talsma made public confession of his faith May 6.
Keith and Sara Noorman (Besselsen) were united in marriage May 18.
Barb Moelker and Brent De Jong were united in marriage June 9.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hanko mourn the death of their daughter, Ellen Dick, June 8.
The membership papers of Steve Potjer were transferred to Redlands, PRC.
The baptismal papers of Lynn Bekkering were transferred to our Pella, Iowa.
Dan Van Dyke and Shelley Gunnink were united in marriage June 15.
Carol Rau, Cheryl Rau, and Gwennan Kalsbeek made confession of their faith publicly July 8.
Doug Dykstra and Pam Kuiper were united in marriage June 29.

HUDSONVILLE, MICHIGAN

April 22 was the baptism of Cody James, son of Craig and Sandy Glashower.
Brent De Young and Barb Moelker were united in marriage June 9.
The Pre-Convention Singspiration was held July 29 in Hudsonville PRC.

Why do you fret for tomorrow?
Why are you heavy with care
Wrapping your heart in sorrow
A garment too somber to wear?

God weaves these lovely colors
Into a garment so light
It will penetrate every shadow
And shine through the darkest night.

Faith has a brighter color
Hope has a rainbow hue
And trust links them both together
In a background of heavenly blue.

God will take care of tomorrow
With Him each tomorrow must rest--
And we hold this a sure conviction
When we give each today our best!