BEACON LIGHTS

BY PROTESTANT REFORMED YOUTH

"The message to the Christian is not that the U.S. is now the supreme power in the world - victor in the 'cold war'. Whatever the case may be concerning this, we must recognize the realization of the counsel of our God. His Word is being fulfilled. . . ."

The Four Horsemen - And Iraq
Rev. G. Van Baren

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EDITOR'S NOTES JUNE - JULY 1991

by David Harbach

The staff carefully considered two young men, Peter Faber and Steve Lotterman, for the position of editor-in-chief. Both men made a favorable impression on the staff which is why the results of the voting were very close. I am glad to let you know that our new editor-in-chief is Peter Faber, from Southeast Protestant Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI. Welcome to the staff Peter and may the Lord bless you as you take up your new responsibilities. Our readers will be looking forward to reading your editor's notes in the years to come. Steve, we thank you for seeking the position of editor, and hope you will take on your suggestion of endeavoring to obtain new subscribers for the Beacon Lights.

The next bit of news will also be exciting for many people.

1992 WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

Division Winners

3rd Grade: Bethany Joy Haak (Lynden, WA), Denise Joy Noorman (Jenison, MI), Sarah Van Egdom (Doon, IA).

4th Grade: Maria Bodbyl (Grandville, MI), Lois Kuiper, Grand Rapids, MI), Bethany Slopsema (Grand Rapids, MI).

5th Grade: Cory Jay Griess (Loveland, CO), Renae Karsemeyer, (Redlands, CA), Joshua Faber (?).

6th Grade: Jan Huisken (Redlands, CA), Nicole Pastoor (Redlands, CA),

Luke Griess (Ft. Collins, CO).

7th - 8th Grades: Ryan Hanko (Houston, TX), Susan Adams (Lynden, WA), Kristin Brands (Edgerton, MN).

9th - 10th Grades: Susanna Inskeep (Otaki, New Zealand), Jennifer Hanko (Houston, TX).

11th - 12th Grades: Philip Van Baren (South Holland, IL), Megan Jankovic (West Chicago, IL), Rebecca Hugg (Jenison, MI).

18 - 22 years old: John Huizenga (?), Tom Bergman (Hudsonville, MI).

23 - open: Connie Meyer (Grand Rapids, MI), Larry Meulenberg (Grand Rapids, MI), Mark Vanden Berg (Zeeland, MI).

Congratulations winners! Thank you for writing. Each of you will not only have your article printed in the B.L. but will also receive a book gift certificate.

There were many excellent entries, especially in the lower grades, which made the judging all the more difficult. Many of the pictures you sent were beautiful. We thank all of you who did participate in the writing contest and hope that you enter next year's writing contest as well.

Some of the winning articles from grades 3 - 6 are found in this issue. Bethany Haak (3rd Grade) wrote on The Butterfly, Maria Bodbyl (4th Grade) wrote on the Lamb, Cory Griess (5th Grade) wrote on The Bald Eagle, and Jan Huisken (6th Grade) wrote on The Deer. Enjoy the writings of these young writers. We look forward to future installments of the other winning articles.

As you can see, some winners did not include their address and we want to send every winner their gift. So, if you see a (?) after your name, you will need to send your address to our treasurer, Brian Kuiper, 4431 Riverbend Dr., S.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504. He will send your gift book certificate to you as soon as he has your address.

Rev. Van Baren and Michele Elzinga are our two feature writers for this issue. Rev. Van Baren looks at war from the perspective of "The Four Horseman - And Iraq". As God's people, it is important for us to be cognizant of the carrying out of the counsel of our God. Michele Elzinga looks at war from the perspective of having a loved one go off to war. "War: An Unfolding of God's Plan" shows the great comfort that the Word of God provides us in the time of war. Thank you Rev. Van Baren and Michele for two

important articles concerning our lives and time in which we live.

Rev. John Heys brings us what is now a three part series on "Drifting With The Wind". In this installment, Rev. Heys will continue to look at the awful tragedy of drifting away from the truth. The encouragement to fight against Satan in order to keep away from his godlessness and devilish ways is important for any age, young or old.

Bernie Kamps writes about "Aids and The 'Magic Example.' " He asks such questions as, "Or have we slowly subconsciously been drawn into the allurement of the world and maybe have made for ourselves examples which are improper?" Good question that each of us needs to answer, especially parents with young boys and girls. As Bernie puts it, "Step back and consider, are these men and women who live godlessly good examples for us?"

Lori Ellerbroek supplies us with the latest in church news. Keep sending her your church bulletins. Her new address is: 14320 Pine Creek Dr., Holland, MI 49424. I thank Lori for her faithfulness in being our Church News editor.

The two outlines for the Young People's Convention are "Stewardship" by Bruce and Anne Miedema, and a reprint of Everett Buiter's outline "Christian Courtesy."

Prof. Hanko's series on the Janssen Controversy, Mrs. Brands series on Ecclesiastes and the series on the Ten Commandments will be continued in the August/September issue.

I have enjoyed being the editor-in-chief for the last eight years, realizing that our God has given me, the staff, the writers, and many other people the grace and strength to provide you each issue. I will miss working with the staff but will now enjoy reading future issues of the Beacon Lights as a regular subscriber. Hebrews 12:28, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: for our God is a consuming fire."

WRITING CONTEST WINNER 3RD GRADE

THE BUTTERFLY

by Bethany Joy Haak

As we look around we observe the butterfly. It is one of the most beautiful insects. The Greeks believed that the soul left the body in the form of a butterfly. This is not true.

The butterfly is a picture of the resurrection. When the caterpillar goes into the cocoon a miracle happens! The ugly caterpillar becomes a beautiful butterfly. The caterpillar in the cocoon is a picture of Jesus in the grave. The grave opened and Jesus came out wonderfully transformed.

If you hold the butterfly tightly the scales will come off and it will not be able to fly. It will probably die. I know that because my friend did that.

There are all kinds of different butterflies. And they are all beautiful. These are some of them: the Swallow-Tail, the Monarch, and the Painted Lady butterfly.

Are not these wonderful creatures of God?

CONVENTION OUTLINE

STEWARDSHIP

by Bruce and Anne Miedema

In June 1992 dignitaries from various countries of the world held the largest Earth Summit ever in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Issues were discussed pertaining to the care and protection of the environment on a national and global level. This brings to mind just one aspect of stewardship we as Christians must consider. Stewardship, according to Webster's Dictionary, is defined as: "The individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others." This definition touches on all areas of life which the Bible speaks most clearly about.

I. Personal Observations:

A. Describe areas in life of which you feel Christians are to be stewards?

Identify and explain aspects of yourself which you feel characterize a steward.

B. It seems that every decade since the 1920's has had a changed attitude concerning values and priorities which have affected their concept of stewardship.

1. Discuss this issue with a grandparent or elderly friend. Be prepared to share what you have learned with your peers.

2. How do you think your concept of stewardship compares with that of generations before you?

II. Biblical Precept:

A. Through the Bible, God gives the blueprint for a life of stewardship and the standards by which we must measure ourselves. It gives clear precepts for us to search out and incorporate into our daily life of stewardship.

Locate the Biblical precept concerning stewardship in each of the following passages. (this list is by no means exhaustive)

a. Gen. 1:28-30
b. Deut. 8:18
c. Prov. 20:13
d. Matt. 25:14, 15, 23
e. Luke 12:15-21
f. Luke 19:13
g. Luke 20:24, 25
h. I Cor. 4:2
i. I Cor. 6:20
j. II Cor. 9:6, 7
k. Eph. 6:7
l. James 1:5
m. I Tim. 6
n. I Peter 4:10, 11

B. Based on the passages listed above and others you may think of, explain how proper stewardship must be manifested in the following areas:

1. Relationships (family, work related, peers, dating, marriage, etc.)

2. Personal responsibilities (talents, time, wealth, health, abilities, etc.)

3. Spiritual activities (personal devotions, church involvement, gospel witnessing and presentation)

III. Personal Ambitions:

A. Having considered your concept of stewardship and delved into the Biblical precepts, what is your ambition toward stewardship?

1. Thoughts precede actions, and we are commanded to "bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" II Cor. 10:5b.

2. The hymn, "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" is helpful in guiding us in our full involvement toward stewardship for the service of Christ.

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing, Always, only for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be Ever only, all for thee.
Amen.

WRITING CONTEST WINNER 4TH GRADE

THE LAMB

A lamb is a young sheep. Lambs need to be led, which is always why they have a shepherd. They can be easily killed by larger animals. They are gentle creatures. A lamb never makes a sound when they shear his wool.

The lamb was always used for burnt offerings, and usually could not have blemishes. The lamb's wool was as white as snow which is also a picture of our sins being washed away.

In Isaiah 53 we are told that Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter. The lamb is a picture of Christ Who was without blemish and without spot, like unto God. Revelation says that the Lamb will receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory in heaven. We are His lambs and we will be with the Lamb in heaven also.

The foundation of all true knowledge of God must be a clear mental apprehension of His perfections as revealed in Holy Scripture. An unknown God can neither be trusted, served, nor worshiped. . . . Something more than a theoretical knowledge of God is needed by us. God is only truly *known* in the soul as we yield ourselves to Him, submit to His authority, and regulate all the details of our lives by His holy precepts and commandments. "Then shall we know, if we follow on (in the path of obedience to *know* the Lord" (Hosea6:3). "If any man will *do His will*, he shall know" (John 7:17). "The people that do *know* their God shall be strong" (Dan. 11:32).

- Preface: The Attributes of God , Arthur W. Pink

CONVENTION OUTLINE

CHRISTIAN COURTESY

by Everett Buiter

I. What is Christian courtesy?

A. What is courtesy?

1. It is defined as curtsy or courteous behavior.

a. Curtsy is an action which expresses deep respect by bodily action or gesture.

b. Courteous behavior implies the state of having such manners as befit the court of a prince.

2. However, today courtesy has spread out its meaning and it involves all sorts of manners which any man might have.

a. It includes a graciously polite and respectful attitude towards the position or feelings of others.

b. These manners must be performed to all those about us whether they are superior to us or inferior.

B. What then is Christian courtesy?

1. Does it differ from secular courtesy?

a. Do Christians perform more courteous actions?

b. Do the Christian deeds of courtesy come from the heart and the secular deeds of courtesy are only done for outward show?

2. How does courtesy become Christian?

a. Is our courtesy Christian before we are regenerated?

b. Can we really show a graciously polite and respectful attitude towards someone else's position or feelings?

3. Was Christ very courteous in His actions?

a. What about His actions toward the scribes and Pharisees? (confer Matt. 23, Mark 7:5-13, Matt. 22:15-22)

b. What about some of His actions to His own people and followers? (confer Luke 10:38-42, Matt. 15:21-28)

c. Did not Christ show respect and was He not polite only to those who served Him?

d. How must our courteous behavior be in comparison to Christ's?

II. What is the basis for our Christian courtesy?

A. Must the Christian pattern his courtesy after the many manners of the secular realms?

1. Must we confer with the books of proper behavior and courtesy?

2. Must we base our courtesy upon the ideas and thought of Ann Landers or any other person who is an expert on proper behavior?

3. Is it really important that the children learn proper deeds of courtesy while they are at home and in school?

B. Rather we must believe that the child of God must go to the Bible in order to see how his behavior must be.

1. What does the Bible say?

a. Concerning the bodily actions that we apply to courtesy or politeness the Bible has several instances where men performed courteous actions toward their friends or neighbors.

b. Read Genesis 18:1-8 and see how Abraham was courteous.

c. Read Genesis 19:1-3 and see how Lot was courteous.

d. We also can read of rules for eating at a guest's table. (confer Proverbs 23:1, Luke 10:8, I Corinthians 10:27)

e. We can also read in the Bible the different ways of greeting each other and the different salutations which are used. (confer Matt. 26:49, I Sam. 25:23, Mark 5:22, Gen. 19:2, Gen. 43:29, Luke 10:5, Ruth 2:4 and I Cor. 16:21)

f. What must be our attitude towards

all of these passages and is this enough that we do these outward acts only?

2. There are also some good passages which might serve as good basis for all of our deeds of courtesy.

a. We have Jesus' words in Matthew 13:12.

b. We have Jesus' parable of the exaltation of the humble in Luke 14:7-11.

c. There are also Christ's words in Matthew 5:38-47, which tell us to do good unto our neighbors and our enemies.

d. There are Paul's words in Galatians 6:9-10 where we are admonished to do good to all men.

e. There are many more texts but these texts are good foundations for all of our deeds of courtesy.

3. But when all is said and done are not all of our acts of courtesy and politeness dependent upon the sum of the law and the prophets which Jesus gave to us in Matthew 22:37-40?

a. If we are to show courtesy and respect toward others must we not first of all fear and love God?

b. If we are to show courteous deeds to our neighbor must we not love him and esteem him better than ourself (Phil. 2:3, Eph. 5:21, I Peter 5:5)?

c. Read I Peter 3:8-17 and you will see that love first be present in a man if he is to show respect and do courtesy to others.

d. Can we then do courteous things to others without loving that person, and also do the ungodly then perform true and genuine deeds of courtesy?

e. Must we not be very careful to make sure that we examine our motives in our courteous actions?

III. Now we must take a look at our own deeds and see whether we need improvement.

A. What about our actions toward those with whom we come in contact?

1. Do we as citizens show enough respect to our authorities?

a. Do we respect our government because it is more powerful than we are or because we feel that it is instituted by God?

b. Do we show enough respect to our parents, teachers, and ministers and how do we show courtesy to them?

2. Does our courteous action to others proceed from a love and an esteeming of them as better and higher than we are?

a. Do we show this courtesy to even our inferiors, i.e. younger brothers or sisters, friends that are not as talented, etc.?

b. Or are our deeds done so that we look good and virtuous to others?

3. Do we consider our courteous actions as good works which please God?

B. What improvements can we make in our lives?

1. Must we be more friendly to strangers?

a. Do we do as we are commanded in Leviticus 19:34, "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

b. Must we not work more on meeting and greeting strangers?

2. Must we not show more respect to the elderly?

a. I think that we as young people can visit the elderly more often.

b. We can also go to them with questions so that we might obtain some wisdom from them.

Here then is a sure resting-place for the heart. Our lives are neither the product of blind fate nor the result of capricious chance, but every detail o9f them was ordained from all eternity, and is now ordered by the living and reigning God. Not a hair of our heads can be touched without His permission. "A man's heart deviseth his way: *but the Lord* directeth his steps" (Prov. 16:9). What assurance, what strength, what comfort this should give the real Christian! "My times are in *Thy* hand" (Psa. 31:15). Then let me "*Rest in the Lord*, and wait patiently for Him" (Psa. 37:7).

- p. 31 "The Attributes of God - Arthur W. Pink

WAR: AN UNFOLDING OF GOD'S PLAN

by Michele Elzinga

You what? You have to go to war! This is a dreaded fear in the heart of a woman at a time when war is ripe. War drags a son away from his mother's tight clutches, leaving her terrified and feeling helpless.

War snatches a husband away from his wife, leaving her frightened and alone, anxious for his return.

Yes, our natural reaction is to tremble and shake at the thought of war and hope it won't happen to us. Jesus shows us however, in Matthew 24:6-7a that war is inevitable and even necessary for the carrying out of God's plan. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom."

Realizing this, how should we as Christians feel and respond toward the recent Gulf War? What was our Christian responsibility toward it? Did we have the right to be there? The Gulf War brought many of these questions to mind as we watched fellow Americans and loved ones go off to take part in the war.

My heart was anxious on the evening of Jan. 17 when radio and TV programming was interrupted to tell us that our nation had engaged itself in war. This was of special concern to me because my husband's brother, Matt, was in the Army, and had recently been stationed in Saudi Arabia. Since he was trained to be a gunner on the Hum-vee, an anti-tank weapon, we knew he was in great danger. We found out later that his position had been changed at the last minute to be a semi-truck driver, transporting airplane and tank fuel into Kuwait and Iraq. We were thankful he was taken out of combat position, but we knew he was still in danger, carrying a loaded weapon with him at all times. There was nothing we could do for him, except pray, which we did often.

The promises of the Bible give us so much comfort when our loved ones are in areas of potential danger. Psalm 139:9 & 10 tells us, "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me." I knew God was with Matt wherever he went. What a comfort for us to know that our God is everywhere present, and always in control! If we have loved ones in these awful circumstances, we know they are in His care.

While reading the news accounts and hearing the radio reports of the awful things done by Sadam Hussein, it was easy to take on a spirit of revenge. We shouldn't go into war with a vengeful spirit. God tells us in Romans 12:19 "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Instead our attitude should be one of quiet trust in our sovereign God, and a willingness to defend and preserve the welfare of our country.

As citizens we may be called on by our government to fight off an enemy who threatens the welfare of our country. We have the calling to obey our government which God has put over us, knowing that it is a tool in the hand of our Almighty God to accomplish His good pleasure. We must keep in mind, however, that ultimately we serve not our country, or any other earthly institution, but that we serve our living God.

During the 43 days of war in the air and 100 hours of fighting on the ground, we watched in fascination as the war unfolded live on TV. For many of us who have never lived during a time of war, being able to see the weapons of mass

destruction in action made us realize the seriousness of war. In amazement we sat watching buildings being destroyed and lives being lost, all from the comforts of our own homes. All this made me realize how thankful we ought to be that God has given us a country where we enjoy relative peace and quiet.

Does war frighten you? "Be not terrified" Jesus tells us in Luke 21. Our first reaction to war is fear. Death and destruction seem so horrible to us, but we need not be terrified. Why? Because the Lord Jesus Christ in His infinite wisdom and love for His people, sovereignly controls every event. What a comfort for us to know that above the noise of war, we hear the approaching footsteps of the Lord.

WRITING CONTEST WINNER 5TH GRADE

THE BALD EAGLE

by Cory Jay Griess

The Bald Eagle is a strong, graceful, and beautiful bird. It's the master of all birds. With its power it fights for his food and freedom. It's a bird that owns the sky. It fight for its rights to fly above all creatures.

This teaches us to fight for our freedom as a church, to stand up for our rights.

The Bald Eagle as a baby can teach us something too. A baby Bald Eagle depends on its mother and father for its food and a home. We have to depend on our father in heaven and have faith in Him so he will provide us with our food, and a home, and so that we can go to a Christian School.

For parents to connive at their children's disrespect for any teacher, much more to foster disrespect, is for parents to assist in making rebels whom God will cut off from the land and is for parents to cut their own throats (it is the parents' own authority - in the teacher - that they are undermining). There may no more be disparagement of teachers in the presence of the children that a disparagement of each other by parents. As regards the teacher's weaknesses and faults, parents and students alike must always keep in mind the instruction of the Heidelberg Catechism as to how God requires us to respond to the "infirmities" of those in authority: "patiently bear with their weaknesses and infirmities, since it pleases God to govern us by their hand" (Q. 104).

- p. 60 Reformed Education by Prof. David J. Engelsma

THE FOUR HORSEMEN - AND IRAQ

by Rev. G. Van Baren

The four horsemen of Rev. 6:1-8 are familiar, I am sure, to all of our readers. These four horsemen have been running through all of the New Testament age. We see them running not just in one part of the earth, but over the whole of the earth. We have definitely seen them running in the recent war with Iraq—but we hear of their effect in many other nations as well.

Briefly consider the four horsemen. The first rides a white horse. The rider has a bow, and a crown is given to him. The bow indicates the spiritual warfare in which he is engaged; the crown shows that victory is his. He goes forth "conquering and to conquer." This horse with its rider represents the spread of the gospel over all of the earth. Generally, this horse and its rider have traveled from Canaan westward until today virtually all the nations of the world have heard the gospel. By means of this horse and its rider, God has been gathering His people from the whole earth. God does this through the labors of His church to send forth the Word to bring in His elect.

The second horse is red. Its rider has a great sword and is given power to take peace from the earth. This horse represents warfare as this is conducted through the ages. There is killing and destruction. The great sword shows this. The horse portrays what is obvious: throughout history there have been wars and rumors of wars (Matt. 24:6)

The third horse is black and its rider has in his hands a pair of balances. He is to measure out the barley and wheat but is instructed not to touch the oil and wine. Black portrays famine. The measure of the necessary grain for breads pictures the fact that many receive only the barest essentials. A "penny" is a day's wages which could purchase only enough grain for one day The "wine and oil" reminds of the luxury in which the rich revel. While the poor suffer and die of famine, the rich continue to enjoy their prosperity and abundance. This horse too can be observed as he runs through all nations and in all ages.

The final horse is "pale," i.e. a pale green. Its rider is identified as "Death." Hell follows after. The color of the horse is the color of death. The rider indicates also that we have set forth here the deaths which occur over all of the world and through all of time. None live forever. All must die and enter "hell" (which in this instance refers to the grave)

Concerning these four horses, let it be noted that they are part of the seven seals (followed by seven trumpets and then by seven vials) The seals (and horses) affect one fourth of the whole earth (trumpets affect one third, and the vials affect the whole). These represent the average—that destruction which is seen and heard throughout the history of the world.

One other fact ought to be noted. In each instance the horses with their riders are called forth "Come" (not "Come and see" as the KJV) One of the four beasts gives the command. That these go forth is, therefore, under the direction of God and at His command. This is true not only for the first horse, the preaching of the gospel. The other horses as well go forth at His command. There is not war, famine, death by accident—but this is under God's Sovereign control. We must remember that when we hear of those things which take place about us today.

About a year ago we were fascinated with the "Gulf war" that took place in Iraq. We heard of and saw the bombings—some directed with pin-point accuracy. We were amazed by the 100-hour battle in which the Iraqi positions were overrun. We could hardly understand the minimal amount of casualties that "our side" sustained.

The horses of Rev. 6 were running in Iraq. It is true that they are always running through the whole New Testament time. But we

saw them run, shown in living color on television, when Iraq was defeated. We ought to have been fascinated not so much by the modern inventions used in warfare as by the fact that God's Word was being fulfilled.

The first horse had run his course through that region many generations ago. The gospel had been proclaimed in Iraq and neighboring areas as well. There are, so we are told, churches and Christians in the land—though these consist of only a small percentage of the population.

The last three horses were (and are) running there in the service of the white horse which continues to run through the nations of the earth today.

The course of the last three horses is clearly seen in Iraq. War was carried out there with a vengeance. Hundreds of thousands, civilians and soldiers, were evidently killed. The final count has never been released. The red horse ran through Iraq.

The black horse is running there even now. We hear of reports of scarcities brought on by the war and by the oppressive regime of Iraq. There is an embargo upon trade with Iraq. The reports that come out of that land indicate that the citizens continue to suffer greatly. However, those in power live in luxury. Clearly the "wine and oil" are not hurt there. We are even told that the present embargo helps Hussein to remain in power——because the general populace are too poor and weak to rebel or object.

The pale green horse continues to run in Iraq too. Death has been seen there in all of its awfulness. There are the war deaths not only, but now those brought on by shortages of many vital materials.

One might even wonder if what is seen in Iraq does not indicate that we have an increase of all of these adversities from the fourth to the third mentioned in Rev. 8ff.

These horses are not only running in Iraq. We hear daily of their effect in Africa with its wars, famines, and drought. We hear of it in Yugoslavia and in the former U.S.S.R.

All of this tells us something. The message to the Christian is not that the U.S. is now the supreme power in the world—-victor in the "cold war". Whatever the case may be concerning this, we must recognize the realization of the counsel of our God. His Word is being fulfilled. We must not be taken by surprise by the events of our day. Rather, we are to look up and desire the return of our Lord.

There is too the call to diligence and faithfulness. When clearly the end of time approaches so rapidly, we ought to be faithful in life and walk. There ought to be the desire to search out the Word; to teach and preach that Word.

What effect are these world events having in your lives?

WRITING CONTEST WINNER 6TH GRADE

THE DEER

by Jan Huisken

The deer is a meek and simple animal. It has a simple life. I believe God created it for man to enjoy its beauty and for man to use its fine hide. The deer is mentioned in the Bible because of its savory meat men enjoyed.A deer is meek and humble and from this a Christian man can learn a lot. A deer is also very cautious and it takes care of its own just as God cares for his children. God created the deer with sure, swift feet and created the males with antlers to protect themselves. If God did not create the deer, many of its predators would be without food for days. The deer's simple life, I think, is also a picture of Jesus' simple life. Its beauty can also be compared to Jesus' beauty. The deer mostly reminds me of how Christ was full of grace and humbleness when he sacrificed himself on the cross for my sins. The posture of a deer is also very amazing. Its muscular body is breath-taking! Each time I think of a deer, I am always reminded how great, wise, and wonderful God is for giving us such a beautiful creature.

AIDS AND THE "MAGIC" EXAMPLE

by Bernie Kamps

Young people I believe it's time for us to take a hard look at what we assume is an acceptable behavior. The behavior I'm referring to is our looking up to and admiring the many and various pro athletes around the world today. After Magic Johnson announced that he had AIDS it seemed to stun not just everyone but even take some of the church by surprise. The reason that it would take most of the world by surprise is because we still view AIDS as a homosexual disease and because Magic Johnson was the player with the big smile, puppy dog eyes and a person that was admired and attracted admirers easily. But we just don't seem to understand the wicked lifestyle this man led and many others like him. We tape up his poster on our wall, in our lockers and wear a shirt with his face emblazoned on it. We do these things because he is an example and because we find his athletic prowess to be tremendous to say the least. But this same man, this same example, this same person that we look up to and admire is also the same man that goes to bed with many women, a man who lives in sin against the seventh commandment. A man that desecrated the sabbath day, week in and week out. Yet how many of us don't hold these types of sports figures in high esteem. My question now is, are we separating ourselves from all their worldly attitudes? Or are we in some way having their lives and their cavalier attitude toward sin rub off some way on us? Does it always take some of the razor sharp edge of sinning against our God? Does it in some way cause us to be less spiritually sensitive. In other words are we adversely affected by them? Before you answer, put off all of the preconceived notions that, oh we just look at those guys as just good athletes, they're not our personal friends. Put off the fact that everyone has posters and shirts and we think it is harmless. That may be the way I'm thinking is of course very provincial. No, before we do those things let us ask ourselves what do the words in the Bible mean that we are to be set apart. That we are to be in the world but not of it. Doesn't it really mean that we shouldn't identify with these people as well as hanging their pictures and wearing shirts with their faces on them? Is this getting too close? That maybe it has an effect on us that we haven't stopped to think about. Please do that before you just discard the fact you may not agree with me. We all struggle with many of the same temptations and the allurement of athletics. Possibly we have gone too far. Maybe this jolting revelation will cause us to look at the type of examples and role models that many of these men are. Many pro athletes are coming forward and saying they will be next to get AIDS. We need to remind ourselves that as children of God we must look upon athletics, both college and pro, as entertainment but to get any closer than that or to spend too much time with it is wrong. We're not good stewards of our time obviously if we spend large amounts of time, if it causes our studies to suffer, causes us to stay up too late before going to God's house. And certainly the lure on the Sabbath Day is taking its toll. Can you imagine that we watch these men on the Sabbath Day even, and try to justify stealing God's time. Ephesians 5:15, 16 "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise." "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." May we put this to heart.

Let's take this opportunity to consider that we are God's children, we who have been saved from the bondage of sin so we are no longer caught in this terrible trap as the world. Where they can only think sinful thoughts, can only do things that are selfish, can only do that which is self glorifying and think nothing of using Sunday to be entertained with sports. We, who have been given that wonderful liberty from bondage of sin,

are no longer tied to sin but that we are free to stop and examine what we are doing and to question are we indeed praising God in that which we are doing. Are we exalting His name? Or have we slowly subconsciously been drawn into the allurement of the world and maybe have made for ourselves examples which are improper? I ask both you as young people and also as parents to consider that we are getting too close to the world and its allurements when we clamor after these athletes. When we would cherish an autograph, a signature mind you! What is in a signature from a pro athlete? What's in it for us really?

Step back and consider are these men and women who live godlessly. Are they good examples for us? May we pursue the strengthening of God's church, fleeing from every appearance of evil. After all what would Christ say and do?

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

DRIFTING WITH THE WIND (2)

by Rev. John A. Heys

Last time we considered the awesome truth that Satan is feverishly striving to get us to drift away from the truth of God's word, and to believe his false doctrines, which deny God His glory. He hates God and is constantly striving to get us to hate Him. And that is a terrible truth that we must not overlook.

The wind of Satan, that is, his false doctrine, turns us away from God and make us concerned with fleshly, sinful advantages. He, as we saw last time, strives to get us to drift down to where there is a waterfall that brings us away from the love of the truth that brings us to The Haven Of Rest, where we will live with God forever in a covenant fellowship and holy life. Satan hates those who love God, and he wants them to go to hell! Yes, he wants that because he hates God.

Last time we considered the devilish work of Satan in Arminianism, which teaches that we must open our hearts, and let Christ come in us with salvation. We must make the decision, which will move God and let Him save us. And although some may claim that God is almighty, they nevertheless, as guided by Satan, also teach that we have to let Christ come into our hearts. Mind you, Young People, that not only denies the truth we considered last time, namely, that God told Adam that he would die spiritually, if he ate of the forbidden fruit; but it also teaches that God has to wait for what spiritually dead people do and are called to do.

It certainly is true that our almighty God presents through the apostle John, and in Revelation 3:20, the truth that Christ stands at the door of the church at Laodicea and knocks; and that if they open the door, He will come in to be with them. But that truth is corrupted when the Arminian churches teach that Christ is here knocking on the door of the hearts of those in this church, and is waiting to see whether they will open the door of their hearts and let Him come in. Mind you, it teaches that spiritually dead people can open their hearts and let Christ come in to them!

The undeniable fact in this verse is that the heart of man is not mentioned in this letter to the Laodiceans. It is not even suggested in that letter presented in Revelation 3:14-22. Christ is standing at the door of THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA, not at the door of the heart of anyone in that church. Christ is standing outside of that church, because it no longer presents Him in its preaching. O yes, they mentioned His name many a time; and they loudly call themselves Christians. BUT our God, here in this letter to this church, presents the awesome fact that not Christ, but the antichrist is being preached there. And the believing children of God in that church are called to get Christ back in the preaching, and expel those that preach an

antichrist, who they claim promises a wonderful life in glory; but does not present the wonderful truth of deliverance FROM SIN! That church is neither cold, nor hot. And that means that it did not condemn sin, nor insist on presenting Christ as the blessed Savior Who saves us from SIN! It uses His name, presents His cross as a wonderful thing, because it gets such a wonderful, heavenly life for us. BUT Christ spews this church out of His mouth, because they, like Satan did to Eve, come with the doctrine that teaches that they will become gods, that is, will have a richer fleshly life, and are concerned, not with a new spiritual life, but with fleshly enjoyment.

We must be concerned with salvation from SIN, not merely salvation from the punishment sin brings to man. As pointed out last time, our God in that first gospel presentation, in Genesis 3:15, and is called The Mother Promise, speaks of working enmity, that is, hatred against Satan and sin in the hearts of His elect children, whom Satan had brought to the love of sin. God did not in that first promise of salvation present deliverance from the punishment of sin, but from the hatred against Satan and the sin he had brought into mankind. There just cannot be deliverance from punishment until there is for the elect a salvation from the love of sin. God declares to Satan that He will make His elect hate sin and him, that is, Satan, that faith-destroyer. It means that He, the almighty God, will make His elect love Him, even though in Adam we were turned against Him. He will deliver us from the hatred Satan worked in the human race. That basically is our salvation; and deliverance from the punishment we deserve; and thus freedom from all the torments of hell will be ours. That deliverance from punishment is not that which produces salvation from sin. Salvation from sin is what gives us the right to be delivered from the punishment we deserve.

These lines are written to you young people because you are confronted with more false doctrines, and temptations into sin, than we were when we were of the age which you now have. Satan is so clever and active, and he is working very hard, because he hates God so fully that he got God's Son nailed to the cross. And he is not working so very, very hard in his attempt of keeping the citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven from crossing that river of life, and strives to get them to drift away from the way they must go to enter the channel and reach that kingdom where we will have sweet communion with God, and walk in perfect love of Him and unto Him.

Having chosen His people out of every nation, tongue and tribe, our God is today gathering His people who are all across the face of this earth. And that fills Satan with fury, and moves him to come with more crafty and subtle ways, with all the inventions which we have today, and which could not be used in times past. By radio and television, by jet airplanes and the use of satellites, he can and does go swiftly around the whole earth in his attempt to make us drift by crafty, subtle false doctrines. That he does much more intensely than in years gone by, and in the land of Canaan.

What is more is the fact that today churches approve of and advocate more and more worldly things, and live more and more like the world. Satan has gotten them to "eat" the things the true church very correctly condemned in ages gone by. Not only movies and dances, but other sinful deeds are even recommended. Young People, take hold of the truth our God presents in II Corinthians 6:17 namely, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you." Plainly the point is that if we do not heed this word, God will NOT receive us. Now turn to II Corinthians 7:1, for there we read, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." Then again in Revelation 18:4 we read, "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not her plagues."

Therefore hold on to the truth our God gave His church, and which is not only the correct and Reformed presentation of what Scripture teaches us, but is also so beautifully presented in the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession and Canons of Dordrecht. That is what Satan is fighting against, and wants us to reject.

In so many ways today the church world is beginning to look more and more like the Satanic world. And we ought to see clearly how much Satan is in many ways fighting the churches that hold on to the truth of God's word, and that insist on an holy walk of life. Remember that Satan did not come directly to Adam. The awesome truth, and very serious reality, is that he came through Eve to get into Adam's soul. Likewise today, he gets men (Adams) to leave a church that presents and maintains the truth, and a walk of life in harmony with it, by means of women (Eves) who walk in worldliness and false doctrines, which causes these men to drift

away from that entrance into the Haven of Rest. Or Satan gets women to be willing to leave a church with the truth, in order to get a husband who with fleshly joy drifts down that stream of life, and is on the way to the waterfall into Hell!

Remember that we are going to enter the channel that brings us into that Haven of Rest, or down stream with the everlasting torment of hell! It is "either . . . or" and there is nothing in between. We drift with the wind Satan is blowing, or by God's grace we seek the "city which hath foundation, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:20. We let Satan blow us to hell, or we blow him out of our lives, and with Jesus say, "Get thou behind me, Satan; thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Matthew 16:23.

Do not add more worldly things to your lives, but fight against Satan in order to get farther and farther away from his godless, devilish and crafty ways. Bear in mind the truth presented a moment ago, that he seems to be such a charming, wonderful friend. And the wind he blows may seem so refreshing and comfortable, on a day that is hot because of temptations, and because the holy wrath of the almighty God is sent upon the world that hates Him. Give "the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we drift" on the way to hell! Hebrews 2:1.

Listen to the apostle Paul: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14. Read also the verses from 14-21. Take a firm hold also on what Paul wrote; for we find in there the comforting truth that our citizenship is in heaven. In our King James version we do find that "our conversation is in heaven"; but the Greek word that Paul uses comes from the Greek word for city. Because we are citizens in God's kingdom by His grace, our conversation is and must be heavenly; but Paul does here give us the reason why we can have a godly conversation. He has caused us to be citizens of His kingdom, and He has enabled us to speak as such citizens.

Live that way, Young People, and do not drift along with the citizens of Satan's kingdom. Seek the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness. Do not drift with the world, but drive on the path on which Christ walked, and seek the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness in a righteous walk.

CHURCH NEWS

by Lora Ellerbroek

SOUTHEAST, (Grand Rapids)

The consistory has received the membership papers of Mr. and Mrs. Edward (Adriana) Ophoff, Sr. from First PRC.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Donald Christopher, infant son of Donald and Betty Hauck on March 22.

We extend our Christian sympathies to Gerlof and Tillie Vander Baan in the death of his brother, Mr. Bob Vander Baan.

The Young People's Society sponsored their annual Potluck Supper which was held April 16.

PEACE, (Illinois)

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Kent Alan and Karla Joy (infant twins of Ken and Myrna Boer), Christina Joy (infant daughter of Mark and Brenda Zandstra) and Cassie Rae (infant daughter of Dennis and Joan Boer) on March 22.

EDGERTON, (Minnesota)

We express sympathy to Rev. and Mrs. De Vries and family in the death of his father, Vernon De Vries.

We express sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Gunnink and family in the death of her grandfather, John Spoelstra.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bleyenberg were blessed with a son, Billy Michael on Feb. 20.

The young people sponsored a gym night for the congregation on April 3. They also sponsored

a Singspiration on Easter Sunday along with the members from Doon and Hull congregations.

HULL, (Iowa)

The confession of faith of Chad Uittenbogaard, Craig Hoksbergen, Valerie Gritters, and Laura Bleyenberg took place on March 8.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Alyssa Nicole, of Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Van Maanen and to Marcus Jacob, of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Andringa on March 15.

The membership papers of Mrs. Valerie Driesen have been received from Ebenezer Reformed Church of Shafter, CA.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Nicholas Marinus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Netten on March 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Alden De Jong were blessed by the birth of a daughter, Dana Elizabeth.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Klein have been received as members from the now disbanded Covenant Reformed Church of Holland, MN.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Westra were blessed with the birth of Kyle Jon.

Mr. Barry Pollema and Miss Patty Hoekstra were united in marriage April 10.

SOUTHWEST, (Grand Rapids)

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Sharlena Rose, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Hoving and Katie Jo, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kuiper.

Mr. Michael Feenstra made public confession of faith March 1.

Mrs. Helen Schipper celebrated her 84th birthday on March 10.

The membership papers of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Andringa were sent to South Holland PRC at their request.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Joan Stalsonburg in the death of her mother, Mrs. Cornelia De Young.

We extend congratulations to Mrs. H. Veldman who celebrated her 83rd birthday on March 30.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Monica Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ophoff.

Mr. David Kamps and Miss Lynnae Rottier were united in marriage on April 3.

Mrs. A. Deppe celebrated her 86th birthday.

Mrs. M. Dykstra celebrated her 94th birthday on April 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Randall Vander Veen were blessed with the birth of Lisa Joy on April 19.

BETHEL, (Illinois)

The membership papers of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Moore have been received from Hull PRC.

PELLA, (Iowa)

The congregation expresses its sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Conrad De Vries in the loss of their son, and to Loren and Beulah De Zwarte in the loss of Beulah's brother, Mr. Vernon De Vries.

The membership papers of Mr. Steve De Boef have been received from Calvary CRC.

The membership papers of Dean Bekkering have been received from Faith PRC.

FIRST, (Grand Rapids)

We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Jeanette Bartelds in the death of her grandson, Mr. Jeff Howard.

The membership papers of Mr. Ed Bos have been transferred to Grandville PRC.

Mr. Tom Newhof, Sr. celebrated his 86th birthday February 26.

The Lord took Mrs. Frances Nouse to glory.

Mr. Claude Van Putten passed away on March 13.

We extend congratulations to Miss Jennie Karsies who celebrated her 93rd birthday April 6.

Mr. Ryven Ezinga celebrated his 86th birthday April 14.

The Dempsey and Hunter families mourn the loss of their father and grandfather.

SOUTH HOLLAND, (Illinois)

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Glen Phillip, son of Lou and Cheryl Regnerus on Feb. 23.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lenting were blessed with the birth of Michael Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Dekker were blessed with the birth of Lisa Ann.

Mrs. Rose Vroom passed away March 11 - mother and grandmother of the George Vroom family.

FIRST, (Holland)

Baptism for Anmaree and Nathan Boeve was administered April 12.

Brent Joel, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald De Jong, received the sacrament of baptism March 1.

HOPE, (Redlands)

The congregation extends its sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Bud De Vries in the passing away of Mary's brother-in-law, Mr. Henry Ykema.

The Young People sponsored a pancake breakfast on Feb. 29.

Mr. Bud De Vries also mourns the death of his brother-in-law, Mr. John Hager.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Span were blessed with the birth of Rachelle Suzanne.

Mrs. Sue Gaastra celebrated her 90th birthday.

The congregation extends its sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. John Ekema in the death of their daughter, Linda Van Overloop.

Mrs. Mary De Vries celebrated her 77th birthday.

Mrs. Gretine Van Uffelen celebrated her 92nd birthday April 13.

Dawn Van Uffelen made public confession of her faith April 26.

LOVELAND, (Colorado)

We express our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Schwarz in the death of her sister.

Matt Moore and Heidi Vander Meulen were united in marriage.

We express our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Ron Koole and family in the death of his father, Mr. Peter Koole.

GRANDVILLE, (Michigan)

Mrs. R. Harbach celebrated her 74th birthday.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Van Engen's son, Brandon James.

Dave and Julie Van Overloop rejoice in the birth of Andrew James on March 21.

IMMANUEL, (Canada)

Michele Linker made public confession of her faith March 29.

We extend sympathy to the Alan Pettcker family in the death of their nephew and cousin, Micah.

HOPE, (Walker)

The membership papers of Miss Sandra Storey were received from First, Grand Rapids, PRC.

Mike and Teresa Mastbergen were blessed with the birth of Sara Lynn.

Mr. Joe King observed his 84th birthday April 11.

Michael and Sharon Bosveld were blessed with the birth of a son Jared Michael April 15.

We express our deepest sympathy to the Koole family in the sudden death of Mr. Peter Koole.

David and Joan Hanko were blessed with the birth of Andrew Luke.

FAITH, (Michigan)

On March 2, Mrs. Linda Van Overloop was taken to glory. We express our sympathy to her family.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Johnathon David, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Dykstra March 29.

The membership of Reuben and Ruth Kaptein and son Steven have been received from the Conrad, Montana, CRC.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Joel Mulder in the death of his grandmother.

The brother of Will Van Dyke passed away. We extend sympathy to the Van Dyke, Kaptein, and Scholten families in the death of their uncle.

The congregation expresses its sympathy to the family of Mr. Peter Koole, Rev. and Pat Koole, Larry and Pat Koole, Don and Jackie Offringa, and Andy and Mary Brummel.

HUDSONVILLE, (Michigan)

We extend our sympathy to the Van Overloop families in the death of their daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, and aunt, Mrs. Linda Van Overloop.

The sacrament of baptism was administered March 15 to Zachary Douglas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Start and for Rebecca Sue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jay Kuiper.

Rev. J. Heys celebrated his 82nd birthday March 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Hib Kuiper Jr. celebrated the birth of Thomas Jay March 18. The sacrament of baptism was administered on April 26.

We extend sympathy to Mrs. Harry Zwak in the sudden death of her grandson.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Don Dykstra on their 68th wedding anniversary on April 2, and to Mr. Dykstra who celebrated his 92nd birthday the same day.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Chelsea Rose, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hoekstra and to Chase Jeffrey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Lubbers.

Jeffrey De Young and Sandra Koetje were united in marriage April 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerrit Lubbers celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on April 10.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Veele rejoice in the birth of Patrice Dawn April 14.

We extend our sympathy to Mrs. John C. Lubbers, Mrs. Mary Holstege and Mrs. Dena

Schut and families in the death of Mr. Lambert Schut.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Glashower was baptized April 26.

BOOKS

Published by the Federation of Protestant Reformed Young People's Societies

Reformed Education by Prof. David Engelsma - 86pp. - **$2.50**

Originally published in 1977 by the Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies, this excellent book was reprinted by the Federation of Protestant Reformed Young People's Societies in 1981. An excellent series of speeches on:

The Covenant Basis of Christian Education
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A reprint of Abraham Kuyper's stimulating volume answering the question, "What is expected of me after I make confession of faith?" He reveals how full Christian life does not end but begins with confession of Christ as a personal Savior. An ideal gift book which includes a presentation page.

Leaving Father and Mother by Rev. C. Hanko - 56pp. - **$1.50**

A brief discussion of finding a mate, and courtship, the marriage vows, and the bond of marriage that unites two lives in love, in devotion, and in the fear of the Lord.

Christian Liberty by Rev. R. Harbach - 48pp. - **$1.50**

An excellent short book on Christian Liberty in matters indifferent, concerning proper mutual respect, vs. judging and despising, in observance of days, occasions to fall, offenses, and the principle of faith.

Jesus' Beauty Shining In You by Rev. C. Haak and Rev. R. Van Overloop, Don Doezema and Marybeth Lubbers - 187 pp. - **$6.50**

The three main authors of this book took each fruit of the Spirit as given in Galatians 5:22-26 and wrote from a particular point of view. Don Doezema wrote on the fruit shown in the life of Christ; Marybeth Lubbers wrote about the fruit shown in the life of a biblical character; and Rev. Van Overloop wrote on the fruit of the Spirit shown in the life of Reformed youth today. A superb study of the fruit of the Spirit in the life of Christ and in the lives of God's people.

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