BEACON LIGHTS

BY PROTESTANT REFORMED YOUTH

As the new editor of the BEACON LIGHTS, it is my prayer that this magazine be based in a deep humility for the Bible, which encourages the readers not to question the authority of God's word, but study it, apply it, and live it.

VOLUME XLXI NUMBER 7 AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1992

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD
President - Tom Bergman
Vice-President - Bruce Hugg
Secretary - Heidi Holstege
Treasurer - Matt Kuiper
Librarian - Susan Overway
Vice-Secretary - Erica Kalsbeek
Vice-Treasurer - Mike Feenstra
Youth Coordinator - Dan Van Dyke
Spiritual Advisors - Rev. Gritters

BEACON LIGHTS STAFF
Editor-in-Chief - Peter D. Faber
Associate Editors - John Faber
Bruce Miedema
Rich Peterson
News Editor - Lora Ellerbroek
Finance Manager - Brian Kuiper
Secretary - Kristen Engelsma
Lisa De Young
Thelma Westra

EDITORIAL OFFICE; Peter D. Faber
4190 Burton S. E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Address Change: POSTMASTER
Joel Zandstra
6157 Balsam Dr.
Hudsonville, MI 49426

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS;
Mrs. H. Brands, Lora Ellerbroek, Mr. Dewey Engelsma, John Faber, Roger Gritters, Rev. C. Hanko, Prof. H. Hanko, Rev. J. Heys, Rev. D. Kuiper, Bruce Miedema, Rich Peterson

NEWS EDITOR: Lora Ellerbroek
14320 Pine Creek Drive
Holland, MI 49424

EDITORIAL POLICY
The articles of **Beacon Lights** do not necessarily indicate the viewpoint of the Editorial Staff. Every author is solely responsible for the contents of his own article.
If any material of **Beacon Light** is reprinted by another periodical, we will appreciate your giving the source.

Book Orders: Beacon Lights,
P.O. Box 375
Jenison, MI 49428

Scholarship Fund Treasurer:
Howard Pastoor
0-3829 16th Ave.
Grandville, MI 49418

COLLECTIONS: Brian Kuiper
4431 Riverbend Dr. S.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Subscription Price $7.00

SUBSCRIPTION DUES:
ALL AREAS: Joan Hanko
419 Parkside
Standale, MI 49504

Contents

EDITORIAL
As Little Children - Peter D. Faber 1
Thanks Dave! - Bruce Miedema 2
Writing Contest Winner: The Porcupine - Nicole Pastoor 2
FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY
Drifting With the Wind (3) - Rev. J. A. Heys 3
Writing Contest Winner: Lambs of God in Creation - Denise Noorman 5
CONVENTION SPEECH
The Christian Soldier - Rev. S. R. Key 6
Protestant Reformed School - A Matter of Confession - Marty VanderWal 11
The Third Commandment - Rich Peterson 12
Mormonism: Why is it a Cult? - Philip Van Baren 13
Book Review - Kristin Engelsma 15
Church News - Lora Ellerbroek 15

EDITORIAL

AS LITTLE CHILDREN

by Peter D. Faber

"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said to them, Suffer the little children to come to me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." Saint Mark 10: 13-16

There were ten minutes left before church began. As I glanced toward the aisle a little girl was walking past holding her mother's hand. This little girl with her Sunday dress, shiny black shoes and little pony tail was walking down the aisle with her mother. Her little hand was tightly clasping on to her mother's, and as they went past I noticed that the little girl's eyes were shut. She was walking willingly, but she did not know where she was going. This little girl, it is obvious, trusted her mother so much that she knew if she held mother's hand everything was fine. In fact to this little girl holding mothers hand and walking or watching where she was walking was one and the same.

A child can trust his or her parents so easily and we also see how deep their trust in God is. A child after hearing a Bible story believes it so strongly that it is almost the same as if that little child actually witnessed the event. This trust or faith, Jesus Christ tells us, determines whether we will inherit eternal life. Mark 10:15b says "whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" This simple trust in God and in the Bible is crucial to our communion with God. As we see this lack of faith and humility in our life we must pray that God will give it to us.

This humility will also show itself in our lives. When we have a question or problem we will turn first to the Bible. This is only right if, seeing it or Jesus saying it, is the same for us. We will need no other. But watch out, today's ecclesiastical scene would persuade us that the verse in question was written two thousand years ago, and of course it applied then, but is the same true today? Today we have Christian liberty and we are progressing so nicely on new theology— but wait — if we talk like this we have already lost it. Jesus says in Matthew 18:3 "Except ye be converted, and become as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." If we have adopted today's philosophy and elevate our ideas and interpretations over what the Bible directly teaches, God commands us to be converted. We must hold this childlike faith and humility whether we are factory workers, farmers, pastors or the world's most learned theologian. If we are not humbly faithful to the Bible it is over. We must remember that human wisdom can never replace the word of God.

As the new editor of the BEACON LIGHTS, it is my prayer that this magazine be based in a deep humility for the Bible, which encourages the readers not to question the authority of God's word, but study it, apply it, and live it.

So let us be found in Him!.

The BEACON LIGHTS is in the process of many changes so please bear with us for the next few months while we implement them.

This month we have three writing contest winners: Denise Noorman with an article titled "Lambs of God in Creation", Nicole Pastoor with "The Porcupine", and Philip Van Baren on "Mormonism: Why is it a cult?" Also we have an essay from Marty VanderWal written for the scholarship committee entitled "Protestant Reformed Schools a Matter of Confession" and an edited speech given by Pastor Steven Key at this past 1992 convention titled 'The Christian Soldier".

THANKS DAVE!!

Dave Harbach joined the B.L. staff eight years ago and worked as associate editor until Dave Moelker resigned his position, at which time Dave assumed responsibilities as editor. He soon created his niche and we all have grown accustomed to his comments at the beginning of each issue.

Originally the B.L. was designed to be a magazine devoted to the spiritual instruction of Protestant Reformed young people. As editor, Dave maintained this focus with many stimulating rubrics and topics.

During the past few years the staff has discussed and approved the attempt to broaden the circulation of the B.L. and Dave has led us well in laying the groundwork for this. We feature a new format which allows the student and researcher the opportunity to photocopy and document his source. We have also updated our typesetting equipment enabling the B.L. to be more professionally and efficiently produced each month.

Speaking for the B.L. staff and the Fed Board (whose members participate in our meetings), I am thankful for the selfless service Dave has displayed to each of us who have had the privilege to work with him. Dave's integrity and consistency are testimonies of his Christian character and worthy of each of our continued pursuit.

Dave gave himself to the B.L. and in essence to the young people of the Protestant Reformed Churches for these years and we are grateful to God for this brother's diligence. We pray God's blessing for Dave as he continues his labors as Christian school teacher and Church office bearer.

Sincerely,
Bruce W. Miedema
Beacon Lights Staff

WRITING CONTEST WINNER
6TH GRADE

THE PORCUPINE

by Nicole Pastoor

The porcupine is an animal about 3 feet long and it weighs about 20 pounds. Their fur is brownish-black and their yellowish-white quills are 2 to 3 inches long. The babies, born in spring, are born with quills. They live mainly in pine forests and eat green vegetation and tree bark.

God created the porcupine with quills to protect itself from its enemies. The porcupine iS one of the many creatures of God's creation which show God's wisdom and power. The porcupine is also a picture of us. Just like the porcupine quills protect it from its enemies, God gives us His word to protect us from Satan and the wicked world.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

DRIFTING WITH THE WIND (3)

by Rev. John A. Heys

As pointed out in a previous article, Young People, Satan sends forth the wind of false doctrines to keep us from seeking the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness. Doing that, he strives to make us drift off the path that brings us to the channel through which we enter that kingdom.

But there is another side which we must also consider. By false doctrine Satan strives to keep us from what Paul says in Philippians 3:14, namely, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." By a sinful walk, by the breaking of God's law, we can also deliberately and eagerly go away from the Kingdom of Heaven. That breaking of God's law is due to Satan's desire and temptation brought to us so that we walk in hatred against God. Do not forget that every sin, no matter in what form it comes, is an act of hatred against God. As Satan got Adam and Eve to hate God, and reveal this by eating what God said that they might not eat, Satan is today working feverishly and constantly with us, striving to get the whole human race to walk in hatred against God, and reveal this by going against His law.

To act as though there is no God Whom we must serve is one thing, and is performed by all men, as they are by nature. But to go against God is also the desire of man's sinful flesh. And Satan got the whole human race to hate God by getting Adam and Eve to die spiritually, so that losing their love of God, they had no love of God left in them to hand down to the human race. Apart from doctrines and teachings, Satan is constantly striving to get us to break God's law, and in that way cause us to walk in hatred against God.

Therefore today there is, in what calls itself God's church, so much sin and approval of breaking God's law, that the way is being prepared for the Antichrist to come. Anti means against, and antichrist means against Christ. And Satan is not simply using the world, and those who desecrate the Sabbath, for the coming of that antichrist. He is working very, very hard in the church world. In the church world today there are so many sins not only to be allowed without rebuke and punishment, but also advocated and encouraged. In fact, because God's law reveals what are acts of love to God, the breaking of His law is boldly walking in hatred towards Him. And many churches today advocate living with and like the world in its breaking of God's law. Young People, consider how much sin there is committed in the church world on the Sabbath day! Church members are in what is called and scheduled as a worship service. BUT being busy with things spiritual is at best only two services, and about one and a half hours of "worship" twice a Sabbath day. In fact, in many churches that is only once a day. And members of those churches can spend MORE hours on the Sabbath day watching some sports played for hours on TV, or hear it over the radio. Far more busy and active are they with worldly sports than church worship! You do not do that, do you? If you do, you are drifting with the wind that Satan is blowing, and are not seeking the city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Hebrews 11:10

Let us go back to what we considered in a previous article in this department. Satan got Adam and Eve to hate God. No matter how necessary and sinless it may look to us, simply to eat a piece of fruit that is forbidden, and every breaking of God's law, is an act of hatred against

Him. Take note also of the fact that Satan approached Jesus, Who surely needed bread after forty days and forty nights of fasting, and Satan came with such an appealing suggestion, namely, doing what Jesus could but would not do: Command stones to become bread! Did He not change water into wine as His first miracle? And Jesus answered him with the awesome and wonderful truth that "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. And when our God says that on the Sabbath we must do no work, and that the Sabbath day is to be hallowed for our God, may we make one minute of it unholy, carnal and for the joy of our sinful flesh, rather than for the worship of our God? When we desecrate the Sabbath with sports, entertainment, worldly gossip and amusement, we drift away from the way of God's law, and thus away from the entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven. By seeking what our flesh enjoys, and opposes our God in His law, we reveal no interest in seeking that kingdom and of walking in love for our God.

In the church world Satan is presenting so many, many things today that are not serving God, but are tempting us to eat forbidden fruit, as Adam and Eve did. The world has done this from the beginning. In fact the very first child to be born became a murderer! Cain killed his brother Abel. Cruelty and murder came into this world by the very first family that was created and born on this earth. Satan got Cain, the seed of the serpent, to kill Abel the seed of the woman. Cain did not simply reveal hatred against Abel. He manifested his hatred against God, Who taught us how to serve and worship Him. Cain undoubtedly had been told by his parents that God revealed how he must worship God. In fact God said to him, "Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." Genesis 4:6, 7.

Mind you, even though that awesome truth was presented to Cain, he still wanted to go in the wind that Satan blows, and whereby he gets us to seek that which our flesh craves, and is opposed to what God promises us in Christ. What is more, today Satan is working very feverishly in his hatred against God, and against His covenant people. Satan hates constantly and deeply the church of God and he is using so many of the things man now can make and use, so that he can strive with all his power to get us to drift by his wind of false doctrine not only, but also by wicked works which he wants us to perform. Satan here, in the murder of Abel, reveals already what he will do with Christ, when He comes into our flesh. And you may be sure that when Jesus refused to do the three things Satan suggested in that temptation, after Jesus had, according to Matthew 4:1-11, refused in love of God, Satan revealed very clearly that he hates God and His kingdom which is ruled by Christ.

There was a time when churches correctly, and in love to God, would not allow their members to go to theaters, and have them enjoy the works of Satan. But today, and by means of television, one does not even need to go away from home to be with the world in its devilishness. Parents in ages gone by would warn their children not to enjoy Satan's influence in the places of the world's carnal entertainment by movies in theaters. And, sad to say now parents by television let the world come into their home, and let Satan blow his winds upon the family, so that its members are drifted away from spiritual matters, and tempted to live as the world lives. And also sad to say, some churches will approve of this, even though in I John 2:15 we read, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." GOD says that, Young People. Here is written what He says to His church.

It is Satan who tells us not to be so serious. It is Satan who uses television, radios and cameras to spread sin left and right, and to tempt members of Christ's church to go along with those he, Satan, has led to enjoyment of wickedness. It is what GOD says, not merely this article and what Paul says in II Corinthians 6:17, where He declares to us: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you." It is so easy, and enjoyable for our flesh, to turn on the switch so that Satan is in our home, and tempting us and our children. And the sad truth is that even when we are only listening to the news - that is, turn on that television set or radio to get the news - in between Satan comes with advertisements of the world, and its works of hatred against God, and love of sins which the world delights in and boldly commits. Killing, stealing, acts of adultery even, and dishonor against parents as well as coveting what the neighbor has, are presented to entertain, not to warn against and declare to be acts of hatred against God. And against this are Jesus' words which we find in Matthew 5:6 and 48. Jesus tells us to hunger and thirst after righ-

teousness. And the world cannot do one thing that is righteous. And we read in Romans 3:12. "They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable: there is none that doeth good, no not one."

Hold on to that truth, Young People. Our God gives our churches the grace to maintain that truth. Insist on the awesome truth which our God presents here. Hold on to it with the truth given us in Psalm 7:11. There we read, "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day." THAT is why we maintain the truth that there is no "common grace" of God on the unbelievers for whom Christ did not die.

Thanks be to God, our churches have not drifted into the doctrine of God being gracious with some for whom Christ did not die. Listen! If God is gracious to those for whom Christ did not die, He is not Jehovah, the I AM Who NEVER CHANGES! If He changes, giving a grace to some in this life, and than stops it and puts them into hell's torment, He is not the I AM, but the I Was. DARE WE maintain that sinners can realize a change in God, the I AM? He is gracious to them in this life; but will not be when they die? Why does He cause them to die then and go to hell?

Do not believe or defend the teaching that Jehovah, the I AM, becomes a God Who was changed because of what men do. May our God grant you the grace to maintain the truth of His word, and not drift with the wind that Satan blows upon the churches, because of his hatred toward the Holy, Unchangeable God.

Stand fast and hold on tightly to the truth in Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I change not: therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." If He does not change in His grace, then those that receive a "common grace" must have some blessing after they die, and get part of heaven's blessing.

Do not drift away from our God, and His truth that He is the unchangeable I AM. Call Satan a liar; and do not let him cause you to drift from the truth that our God is a God Who hates ALL sin, and all sinners for whom He did not send Christ to blot out their guilt.

Watch out for all the winds of false doctrine, and of breaking God's law. Fight them; and do not accept them and defend them.

WRITING CONTEST WINNER
3RD GRADE

LAMBS OF GOD IN CREATION

by Denise Noorman

Lambs mean a lot to me because they are a special gift to the world. A lamb is a young sheep. It is less than one year old and without permanent teeth. In the Bible, the people used the flesh of the lamb as food and the wool of the lamb to make clothes. Lambs were also used in the Bible for sacrifices. A sacrifice was a sign to God's people of the washing away of their sins by shed blood.

Jesus was the special Lamb for God's people. He had the precious blood and was a pure lamb without blemish and without spot.

The Bible often talks about lambs. These are my favorite passages. "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. I like this verse because it shows that Jesus was the lamb that died for my sins. The other passage is "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." Isaiah 40:11. I like this verse because it shows that Jesus is the good shepherd who gathers His people like lambs into heaven.

CONVENTION SPEECH

THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

by Rev. Steve Key

The theme text for this convention has been announced as II Tim. 2:3-5: "Thou therefore endure hardship, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully."

That text uses a figure in describing what is a Christian. It is the figure of a soldier. I dare say that all of you hear news from day to day. Some of you hear it on your radios, others read the newspaper, some even watch it on network television. In the past couple years we have seen our own country involved in conflict. There has been massive fighting in Yugoslavia as well as in other parts of the world. There are soldiers called to fire their artillery, to kill with their guns. There are others who never make it back to see their loved ones. They die at the hands of their enemies. We view such fighting as a frightful thing, evidence of the great upheaval in the world wrought because of sin. It also is a sign of Christ's coming, don't forget. In that sign we Christians find our comfort. But my point here is this: Do you understand that every time you see a soldier, you are looking at a picture of yourself as a Christian? That is how the Bible speaks about you who believe. If you are a Christian, you are a soldier And although just a figure, it is evident that the figure is a very realistic presentation of the Christian life. The Bible points us to reality and that is clear from the many, many other passages in Scripture that speak of our life of conflict, our life of battle, our life of great warfare. Do you find that to be a description of your own life? The battle of which I am speaking, the battle of which Scripture speaks, the battle in which the Christian soldier is engaged, is as real and true to life as any warfare the world has seen. It has its hand-to-hand conflicts and its psychological warfare. It requires careful watching, and it brings fatigue at times. In this battle the Christian is under many attacks, sometimes major sieges. And this battle is ongoing. Although there may be times when the scene is peaceful in a measure, it is never longer than momentarily. It is a lifelong battle. There are times the Christian appears defeated, but he (or she) fights as victorious. And while the consequences of warfare among the nations is temporary and repairable to a degree, the consequences of this battle in which Christians are engaged are unchangeable and everlasting. Again I ask you, do you find in your own life such a battle?

There are a whole lot of Christians out there today who have a strange conception of the Christian life. They view the Christian life as life on a playground—all fun and games. I have news for you. That is not the Christian life. And I don't say that to take all joy out of Christianity. The amazing thing about the Christian life is that one can be joyful while being involved in fierce conflict. That is something Christianity provides that nothing else can——joy even in conflict. True and lasting joy doesn't come in fun and games. You will not find peace and joy while walking in sin, or cavorting with the enemy. Only the fight of faith provides the joy and peace of fellowship with God in Jesus Christ. You must understand, my brothers and sisters in Christ, that there is a huge portion of Christianity today that is not true, genuine Christianity. It passes

the test of social acceptability, it satisfies sleepy consciences; but it is not the real thing. There are thousands of men and women, even such as yourself, who go to church every Sunday and call themselves Christians. Their names are on the membership rolls of the church, they have been baptized, they are married with a Christian marriage ceremony, and they intend to be buried as Christians when they die. But there is never any spiritual fight in their life. They go along with the majority, do what is socially acceptable, maybe are even active in trying to influence the world for good; but of spiritual strife and exertion on behalf of the Scriptures, of conflict and self-denial and watchfulness and warring against principalities and powers, they know nothing at all. Such Christianity may satisfy a man's conscience, when he doesn't hear the truth of Scripture, and those who say what I am saying now are thought to be most uncharitable and unloving; but such is not the Christianity of the Bible. That is not the Christian faith established by God on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets—on the Scriptures, with Christ as the chief cornerstone. It is not the religion which produces holiness and thankfulness to God. For true Christianity is a life of warfare, and the Christian is a soldier. For the next little while, then, I intend to direct your attention to yourselves as:

CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

For the sake of enabling you better to remember the main thoughts of this speech, and that you might know where I am going with my theme, I intend to follow an outline much like any sermon. I even have three points. I want to direct your attention to:

I. THE DANGEROUS ENEMY
II. THE FIERCE BATTLE
III. THE CERTAIN OUTCOME

I. YOUR DANGEROUS ENEMY IS NOT JUST ONE, BUT THREE.

YOU UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE BEEN WARNED ABOUT THEM OFTEN IN THE PREACHING OF THE WORD— THE WORLD, THE DEVIL, AND YOUR OWN SINFUL FLESH. (LET'S CONSIDER EACH OF THEM VERY BRIEFLY, AND THEN I WANT TO MAKE A FEW CONCLUDING REMARKS ABOUT THESE 3 ENEMIES BEFORE MOVING ON TO TALK ABOUT THE FIERCE BATTLE.)

A. WE CONSIDER FIRST, THEN, THE ENEMY WHICH IS THE WORLD.

When I speak of the world as your enemy, I am speaking of the world as the Bible does in different places, referring to the world as it stands in the service of sin. Calvin was correct when he defined the idea of this world as meaning all that is outside of God, whether in the creation around us or in us. Anything that stands in the service of sin is that which belongs to the world.

Now, I'm going to make bold to say that at no other time has the world been so dangerous for you who will live godly in Christ Jesus. I realize some would dispute that. This world doesn't seem like such a dangerous place, especially when you live in the suburbs or in a small community such a Randolph, Wisconsin or Lynden, Washington. We don't suffer physical persecution. We are not in danger of being burned at the stake or roasted in boiling oil, as were some of God's people in the past. But I still will say that this world is as dangerous a place today for the Christian, as has ever been in history. I say that because of the biblical truth that sin develops. Sin has continued to develop throughout history. Every age has had its own peculiar plague of sin and has revealed its own particular hatred toward Christ and His church. In the days of violent and physical persecution, the world slew its thousands. But I say in the light of Jesus' words and in the light of the inspired epistles, that in our day of ease and luxury and free thought and the love of pleasure and the openness of immorality, the world slays its tens of thousands. The subtle influence of the world, these days, seems to infect the very air we breath. It creeps into our midst like an angel of light, and leads multitudes of well-meaning church people captive. That same love of the world's good things, that same dread of the world's opposition—which proved fatal to men like Judas Iscariot and Demas and many others——is even more powerful today! The enormous power of self—love and self-seeking, the startling rise of a so-called tolerance toward every sin known to man, and the increasing intolerance toward the truth of Scripture, all demonstrate that we Christians have a major battle to fight against the world.

B. THE SECOND ENEMY WITH WHICH WE CONTEND IS THE DEVIL.

Now, you understand that when we talk about the devil, we enter into that which is

beyond our natural perception. The devil belongs to the realm of the unseen, the supernatural, if you will. You must not let that cause you to question the existence of the devil. The simple fact is, Christianity is thoroughly supernatural. At the very heart of our Christian faith is the declaration that Christianity is based on revelation. God tells us that there is a dimension of reality that is not visible to our natural eye, yet that has a profound influence upon our lives. To use an illustration, before the advances in the field of medicine over the past few generations, there were a multitude of viruses and microscopic particles that previous generations knew nothing about. There was an unseen world that had a profound effect upon the lives of thousands. And although that still belongs to the natural world, the same holds true with this realm of the supernatural. Paul warns us in Ephesians 6, that our battle goes beyond flesh and blood. We are wrestling against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, (those spiritual rulers which lie behind the darkness of our enemy which is the world), against spiritual wickedness (spiritual hosts of evil) in high places, (i.e., in the heavenlies)! (Eph. 6:12).

So our enemy is not only the devil, but his army, the hosts of evil. These are personal beings! Don't be deceived by the modern philosophy that makes out Satan to be just another name for the vague and indefinite power of evil in the world. There is nothing that pleases him more than when people in the church deny his very existence and call him a myth. No philosophy does more to put the church to sleep. The devil is a definite person with tremendous power! Even a superficial reading of the Bible will show you that. Not that we extol Satan in any sense of the word. You mustn't forget either that Satan is only a creature. He does not have the power of God. He is not everywhere present. He can only be in one place at one time. But, as I pointed out, he has a great army of devils doing his will. And Satan, the devil, is a creature with extraordinary gifts. He is a cunning enemy, who has a definite purpose in his works, who is able either himself or through his hosts to spy you out and to discover where you are most vulnerable to his attacks. He is ready to exploit your weakness and bring about your downfall. Don't underestimate the power of Satan! His name is devil, the liar, who seeks to overthrow you. He appears not as the prince of darkness that he is, but as an angel of light. He can be most subtle and sophisticated in his deceptiveness. The Apostle Peter speaks of him clearly as our enemy, when he writes in I Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion—notice that, as a roaring lion—walking about, seeking". seeking what, to draw a few more people around his cage in the zoo? Seeking what, to simply play with you, and maybe leave a few fang marks? Oh no. Listen. "Seeking whom he may devour!" Do you realize the seriousness of this warfare, young Christian? To devour the work of God in you, that is the purpose of the devil. He would confuse your spiritual thinking; he would extinguish the fire of your love for God by the pleasures of this life and the things of this world; he would deprive you of your heavenly inheritance. He is an extremely dangerous enemy!

C. THE THIRD ENEMY, THOUGH NOT ANY LESS AN ENEMY THAN THE OTHER TWO, IS OUR OWN SINFUL FLESH.

Our own sinful flesh is a very old enemy, one well-tested. It has survived even from the years of Adam and Eve, wearing itself deeper and deeper into our human natures. And from the flesh comes all kinds of evil works. And don't make the big mistake of thinking that the works of the flesh are only physical sins. In Galatians 5, it is true, Paul speaks of the works of the flesh as including adultery and fornication and murder and drunkenness, and the like. But he also includes envy and hatred and strife. Do you have any idea how destructive envy is to you? Are you conscious of how destructive it is for you to carry around bitterness in your heart? or hatred? That stuff is of that enemy that would drag you down to hell, the old man of sin in you. And for you who love God, who long to be servants of Jesus Christ, you are engaged in an ongoing struggle with your own inclination to evil. Jesus Himself calls us to battle with this enemy, when He says, "Watch and pray; the spirit may be willing, but the flesh is weak."

D. THOSE 3 ENEMIES, THE WORLD, THE DEVIL AND YOUR OWN SINFUL FLESH, ARE FORMIDABLE ENEMIES.

It is impossible to say which of the three does the most harm to us spiritually —the devil himself, and that would include his hosts; the world of sin and unbelief; or our own sinful flesh. I urge you not to underestimate the strength and deceptive capabilities of any one of them. But then, neither must you forget that any two or all

three often work hand in hand as allies against you. And taken together they form an enemy that is a very powerful host.

You stand in the strength of youth. You have made it past the great battles of high school with all its peer pressure, many of you have made confession of faith, and by God's grace have received the victory through many battles. But don't miscalculate and underestimate the difficulty of the battles yet before you. I dare say, the past few years for you have been the most dangerous years from the viewpoint of succumbing to the enemy. I think that is evident from Scripture too. The teenage years are the most dangerous as far as succumbing to the enemy. We learn that from the book of Daniel, where particular warning is given to the youth of the church——comfort too, in the deliverance that is ours in Christ. But Daniel and his 3 friends, together with the other princes of Israel, were taken captive in their early teenage years, exactly because those are the years when a person is most susceptible to being swayed and captured by the enemy. There is also that phrase that we sing from the Psalms, Psalm 25, "sins of youth remember not." That also implies that in our youth we are particularly susceptible to being wounded by the enemy. And although you may already have seen the heat of the battle in your high school years, many of you are still under heavy attack. And I speak to you as one who has experienced many of those battles. I was wounded in some of those battles of youth. I still carry some scars, as probably do some of you. But there is something else you must know: There are other battles that I face today that are just as fierce as those I faced 10 to 20 years ago. You must know that too. The warfare of the Christian is a lifelong warfare and you have yet to see many battles

II. BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS THAT YOU ENTER THE FIERCE BATTLE AGAINST THOSE ENEMIES.

A. WHERE THERE IS GRACE, WHERE THERE IS TRUE FAITH, THE CHRISTIAN IS A SOLDIER.

This battle allows no times of truce with the enemy. This battle must be fought on Sundays as well as weekdays, in private as well as public, at home as well as outside the home, in the management of thoughts as well as outward actions. The enemies against which we fight don't take vacations. So long as we live on this earth, we must remember we are on enemy territory. All true saints are soldiers. Where those who have the name Christian are not soldiers, there is religious apathy, stagnation, deadness and indifference. And I will be frank with you: I see far too much of such stagnation and indifference in the churches. May you not be characterized by such deadness. One of the great blessings of these conventions is the opportunity to have our spiritual fervor stoked up a little bit. And in connection with this speech, I pray that the Spirit applies it in such a way that you go forth to fight with renewed vigor. You are the church. I say to the young people, You are the church of the future. You young adults are the church. You who have made confession of your faith, who have made known to the church that you are soldiers in the conflict—you are now the church And you soon become the most prominent members of the church—the husbands and wives—some of you; parents; godly women, mothers and keepers of our homes; assistants to these men who will soon be the officers—ministers and elders and deacons; generals and captains in the army of God. Even you who will play seemingly small roles, the privates, are the backbone of the army. Don't be indifferent about this battle of faith! Any soldier experienced in warfare will tell you, indifference is death. There is no room for spiritual stagnation. And where that is seen in the churches, it must be rooted out. Not only by sound preaching and faithful instruction, even Christian discipline when necessary; but it must be rooted out by replacing those who are apathetic with you who are ready to go forth in the strength of Christ and by His Spirit, ready to wage war against the onslaughts of the world, the devil and your own sinful flesh.

B. HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR THE BATTLE?

A double answer is found in Ephesians 6:10—13. First, "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might;" and secondly, "Put on the whole armor of God"-not part of it, not merely one or two pieces, but the whole armor of God. In the first place, ours must be the fight of faith. That is what it is to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. From this point of view the Christian warfare is unlike any conflicts of this world. It does not depend upon human strength, nor a quick eye and coordinated reflexes. It is not some kind of nintendo game. It isn't fought with earthly weapons, but spiritual.

Faith, a personal union with Christ, is the heart of the Christian soldier's character. You must see Jesus, and cling to Him. If you only see your own many sins, your weak heart, the many temptations you face, the fury of the devil, then you might well despair. But you must see Jesus, a mighty Savior, a sympathizing Savior, an interceding Savior, your Savior. Living faith in Christ's presence and a readiness to follow Him is the secret of the Christian soldier fighting successfully. And don't forget, faith will ebb and flow in your life. It does in mine. At one time you will be stronger than another. And according to the measure of your faith, you will fight in strength or suffer; you will come off triumphant, or lose a battle. That is why you and I must constantly seek to strengthen our faith, also praying fervently for the grace of the Holy Spirit. It is the shield of faith that quenches all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Nothing will enable you to bear the fatigue of struggling and wrestling against your threefold enemy as will the indwelling confidence that Christ is on your side and your success, even through difficulty, is sure. Abide in Christ; draw closer to Him. Let your daily prayer be that of the disciples (Luke 17:5), "Lord, increase our faith." But secondly, the Apostle writes, "Put on the whole armor of God." Now, I don't have time to describe this armor in any detail. This armor is described in verses 14-17 of Ephesians 6. We need every part of it, without exception. But what I would have you notice is that all the parts of this armor are concentrated in the Word of God. A religion without doctrine is what many are fond of talking about today. That sounds fine at first. Let's make Christianity entirely practical; remove all emphasis on doctrine. But you see, when you sit down and examine that way of thinking, it is simply an impossibility. You might just as well talk about a body without a skeletal or muscular system. No man will ever enter into the battle of faith, unless he believes something. Faith must lay hold of Christ He as reveals Himself in the Scriptures. No one ever fights earnestly against the world, the devil and the flesh, unless he has first engraven upon his heart and in his head certain principles to which he is committed and which he cannot give up. I trust that you have reached the age where the truth of Scripture is all starting to fall into place. The last few years of Catechism you put in your time—most of you—not all that enthused about what you were learning. I think you are at the point now, and you will find that much more in the future, that you begin to appreciate what you have learned. You are equipped to fight the battle of faith. But you need to continue to grow, to take that armor to yourself until you are completely covered.

III. THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT YOUR BATTLE, MY CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, IS THAT YOURS IS THE VICTORY IN CHRIST JESUS.

A. DO YOU KNOW THIS BATTLE? ARE YOU GAINING EXPERIENCE IN THE WARFARE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE?

If your answer is "yes," you have something for which you may thank God. You may take comfort about your battle situation For you have evidence even in yourself that God is at work. You and I fight under the leadership of Christ, the Conqueror of perfect wisdom and almighty power. He is the Captain of our salvation. He never makes any useless movements, never errs in judgment, never commits any mistake. The humblest servant in His army is not forgotten; the weakest is cared for and kept unto salvation. No soldiers of Christ are ever lost, left dead on the battlefield.

Moreover, your fight as a Christian soldier works for your own good, your own joy. Such a fight will bring out the best in you. Christian warfare promotes humility and charity; it lessens self-seeking and worldlimindedness; it gives one to see the glory of serving the Savior. If you talk to an elderly saint, you will not find one who regrets fighting Christ's battles against sin, the world and the devil. What you will find in your elderly brothers and sisters is sorrow over one thing: They failed to put their whole being into that battle earlier, and experience the joy of serving Christ from their early youth. May you seize the opportunity now, and enter the battle with renewed zeal. And the battle ends, you may be sure, with a glorious reward for all you who fight in it. It is a reward of grace, the crown of glory that never fades. Remember, you only see part of the battle yet. You see the struggle, and there are more to come. But the victory, though won, is yet to be revealed to you.

B. SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN AND WILL BE WOUNDED.

Some of you will carry the scars of your wounds into eternity. But God does not forsake His wounded soldiers. There is healing in the blood of Jesus. And even for you who are wounded and trapped by enemy forces, there is a medi-

cal helicopter dropping into enemy territory to rescue you. The gospel provides for you the way out. The work of God is mighty. And the angels of God surround you, ready to deliver you into complete salvation at the very instant God gives the command. And Christ Himself never leaves you nor forsakes you, abiding in you by the Holy Spirit. Many are His promises to you. They shall be fulfilled. Listen to His Word (Isaiah 43:2): "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

PROTESTANT REFORMED SCHOOLS A MATTER OF CONFESSION

by Marty Vander Wal

That we, being members of the Protestant Reformed Churches, insist on our own Christian Schools is beyond doubt. In this brief article it is my goal to show why this is indeed the case. I would like to do this by showing that the existence of our own Protestant Reformed Christian schools is a matter of confession.

This is our confession formally in Lord's Day 38 of the Heidelberg Catechism, which states that God requires by the fourth commandment that "the ministry of the gospel and the - schools be maintained..." Naturally, as a result of this confession, we do indeed maintain our Christian schools as a ministry. It is also our confession that our Christian Schools are maintained by parents rather than the church. This is because God has given the responsibility of child-rearing to the parent. Deuteronomy 6:6,7.

We also confess that God has given our children to us, not to the state or society in general. Therefore, we do not send our children to the public school where it is unlawful to mention the name of God or Christ but as a curse. We do not send them to the public school where all glory is given to man, the creature, rather than God, the Creator. Because of this confession, we take active control over the teaching of our children in the Christian school. We make sure that the teachers who lead our children into all truth fear God and teach according to His word, the sacred Scriptures. We are diligent to uphold the authority of the teacher in our homes, in the presence of our children. As a result, our children know that when they go to school, the teacher is our representative.

It is also our confession that Protestant Reformed Christian Schools are the best means to instruct our covenant children. Because we believe that the doctrines taught by our Protestant Reformed Churches are true, we insist that the schools which our children attend will teach those same doctrines. Only if our children attend Protestant Reformed schools, can we rest assured that they will not be taught the wicked doctrines of evolution, common grace, or feminism. As we see more and more churches (along with their schools) fall away from the truth of God's word, the necessity of schools that are distinctly Protestant Reformed will become more and more apparent.

We have much to be thankful for. Our parents have worked hard to give us our Christian Schools. God has been pleased to use them as means to raise up His covenant children in His grace. Therefore, let us stand together to ensure that this means of His grace continues through generations to come.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

by Rich Peterson

The third commandment states, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for He shalt not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain." In reading this commandment, there are two things which are striking. First, the personal aspect of the command when the Lord is called "Thy God." And second, the antithetical nature of this command in the way in which God presents the command to us.

The reason why God presents this third commandment to us antithetically lies in the very nature of God Himself. He is holy. And, His name, unlike ourselves, is a revelation of Himself. All of the names we read in Scripture which are attributed to God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit or as God Triune are revelations of the very essence of God Himself. Do you want to know who God is? Then know the Names of the Lord. There are many human expressions in Scripture God uses to reveal to us the Name of the Lord because there is no one word that can describe His infinite being of holiness.

However, there seems to be a paradox in this command of Jehovah. How can the Holy One of Israel in whom is no sin, come to us who are sinful and be our God personally? Holiness is the rejection of all that which is evil. It finds sin repugnant. And what fellowship can light have with darkness? Yet in this commandment the Lord calls Himself "Thy God." How can this be? The answer lies in the nature of God Himself. He is a covenant God.

God is Triune: within the Trinity the three Persons of God have perfect communication. When God created man, He established that covenant relation with man. But man broke that bond of friendship when he sinned. He no longer was the friend of God, but became His enemy and man's love for God turned to hatred. But God, Who is merciful, did not abandon man; rather He redeemed him through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, the God-Man, became the Mediator of God's covenant. And through Jesus Christ, God has chosen unto Himself a people to be His possession, His Church. Out of love for His Church God appointed Jesus Christ to be their Redeemer. And out of love for His Father and for the church universal God had given Him, Jesus willingly died and shed His blood for His people for the forgiveness of their sins. There was no other way. The holiness of God required this. The soul that sinneth must die. And Jesus willingly did this for us out of love. No greater love hath a man than that he lay down his life for his friend.

Now we are the friends of God, through Jesus Christ. We have been clothed with the righteousness of Christ. We are made holy in the sight of God. Now the Holy God of heaven and earth sees us through Christ as holy. Wow! It is possible for God to say that He is our God.

As friends of God, how are we to behave ourselves? Jesus says that if we are His friends we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And if we love God we are to obey and do His commandments.

Who among us would even consider taking the name of a good friend and dragging it in the dirt? No, rather we speak highly of our friend to others. That is the essence of friendship. How much more then should we highly exalt the Name of our God? But when we take God's Name in vain, that is to make it a common thing among men by swearing or irreverently swearing oaths, we drag down God's Name and His holiness. Then we do not demonstrate to others and ourselves that we are the friends of God. Our bond of friendship and faith becomes strained.

You see, faith is not only knowledge of the Word, but also confidence. And the confidence of faith comes only by being doers of the Word and not just hearers only. Therefore, we must strive

with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength to do this Word of God, not to take His Name in vain. Then we will grow in faith and become more confident that yes, we are the friends of God through Jesus Christ.

And to those who do not demonstrate their love to God and show that they are not the friends of God, but rather His enemies, the Lord will not hold them guiltless. The cross of Jesus Christ is not for him. This is therefore the antithetical nature of the third commandment. Are you the friend of God?

MORMONISM: WHY IS IT A CULT?

by Philip Van Baren

Mormonism is considered to be one of the four major cults. But what makes it a cult? On the surface it seems that these are pretty valid religions and that they could be considered Christian. But when you look deeper you see how very far from Christianity they really are. Cults disagree with the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, such as salvation by grace alone. They also claim to have another authority other than the Bible (e.g. the Book of Mormon.) Cults consider theirs to be the only true religion, and all others are false. Lastly, the cults believe that they have a central role in the end times. As you read this it will become plain to you why Mormonism is a cult.

Mormonism is considered to be one of the fastest growing cults in the world. In 1983 they claimed to have over 5.1 million members world wide. We can assume that that number has increased substantially over the last nine years. Although today the Mormon church is prosperous, 150 years ago, this was not the case. The founder of this new "American" religion was Joseph Smith, a resident of Palmyra, New York. According to Joseph, at the age of 14 he received a vision from "two personages" which told him that all other religions where false and that he was the one chosen to become the prophet of the Lord. He met often with a spirit named Moroni, the son of the prophet and author of most of the Book of Mormon. Over the next several years Moroni supplied Joseph with the golden plates on which the Book of Mormon was written, and a set of huge spectacles, the Urim and Thummim, to translate them with. The Book of Mormon was written in what Joseph described as "reformed Egyptian." This language is refuted by scholars world wide. Joseph soon obtained a rather large gathering of followers, which he moved to Navoo, Illinois. Then in 1844, Joseph entered "martyrdom" when a group of lawless men hung him.

The leadership them fell on Brigham Young, one of Joseph Smith's closest followers. He moved the people out to Salt Lake City, Utah and built a community there. The Mormons were resented by many people in America. One of the main reasons was that the Mormons are communal. And, to their neighbors' dismay, they were very successful. That is one reason they were persecuted when they started as a religious group.

Mormonism has two sacred texts which are, according to them, God inspired. The first is the King James Version of the Bible. We believe that the Bible is God given, and that the KJV is one of the best translations. But the Mormons have a sequel to the Bible, the Book of Mormon. It is very confusing and difficult to understand. Basically the book is about a tribe of Israelites that leave Israel before Christ's birth. This tribe journeyed to the place we would call North and

South America. Over many years, two tribes were formed: the Jaredites and the Nephites. The Jaredites were cursed and destroyed by God, leaving the Nephites. The Lamanites (or to use modern terms, the Indians) broke away from the Nephites and later destroyed the peace loving Nephites. Mormon wrote down all that had happened and abridged the material before he died. His son Moroni, the last Nephite, hid the golden tablets on which this history is written until Joseph Smith was able to retrieve them.

As I noted before, the Book of Mormon was written in reformed Egyptian. Amazingly, Joseph Smith is the only person alive to have seen this new ancient language. Not one other article of literature has ever been found with this type of writing on it. So it is doubtful that Joseph was telling the truth about this so called language. This also makes the authenticity of the Book of Mormon very doubtful.

There are two other texts that Mormons consider to be sacred texts. They are: The Pearl of Great Price, and Doctrine and Covenants. These are even more difficult to understand than the Book of Mormon and it seems that not as much emphasis is placed on these as is on the Book of Mormon.

Mormons have a very different theology from ours when it comes to the relationship between God and man. It can be summed up in a very few words. What man is, God once was. What God is, man must strive to become. This is not the only startling contradiction. According to the Mormons, there are many gods! If you are a good Mormon all of your life, you will become a god over some world in the universe! Not only will we be gods, but we will have many wives which will bear us spirit-children. These spirit-children then are put into bodies of the babies born of Mormon parents.

Our doctrine of the virgin birth is different than the Mormons. In Luke 1:35a we read, "And the angel answered and said unto her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall over shadow thee...' " Yet the Mormons hold to the belief that God the Father came down to Mary and caused her to conceive Jesus. They change the wonderful miracle of the virgin birth to the filthy pagan belief of the Greeks and Romans which had lustful gods going after the women of the earth. In Luke 1:35 it clearly says that "the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee..." I don't know where the Mormons get the idea of the Father coming down to conceive Jesus.

The Mormons also hold the belief that the Holy Ghost is an "it." The Holy Ghost is non-gender, He is neuter. The Holy Ghost is nothing more than the actions of God on this earth. This teaching rips apart the doctrine of the Trinity. For if the Holy Ghost is nothing more than God's actions, he can't be a part of God. Yet, strangely, the Mormons say they hold to the doctrine of the Trinity. Clearly, it is obvious that they do not.

The Mormons concept of heaven is also very unique. Mormons say that there are three places where men's souls will go. The lowest is hell, the place where unbelievers go when they die. The second level is midway between heaven and hell. The people that believed in God, but didn't hold to Mormonism will come to this place. The people in this level have no chance of becoming "gods" of other worlds. The final and most glorious stage is that of heaven itself where the very perfect that were on earth become gods and the others live a life of bliss and happiness until they too can merit divinity themselves.

In closing I would like to point out one thing that I'm sure Joseph Smith didn't remember or didn't care about. That is the verse in Rev. 22:18 where the Holy Ghost, through John says, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book."

• • • • • • • • • •

Bibliography

Kingdom of the Cults, Walter Martin
Bethany House Pub. 1985

The Teachings of Mormonism, John H. Gestner
Baker Book House. 1985

The Four Major Cults, Anthony Hoekema
Eerdman's Printing Company. 1981

"The doctrine of election affords great comfort. Thy unworthiness may dismay thee, but remember that thy election depends not upon thy worthiness but upon the will of God."

- Elnathan Parr

BOOK REVIEW

by Kristen Engelsma

Christian young people in today's world face numerous obstacles and demanding decisions. Most will readily admit the need for guidance and believe that ultimately God is the Guide. But the question then arises, how do we know God's will?

In Discovering God's Will, Sinclair B. Ferguson answers this question by showing how we must discover what the will of God is for us in His Word - the Bible. To come to a clear comprehension of God's will, we must have knowledge of His Word and know how to apply it, we must often times possess patience, and we must desire to do God's will as it is revealed to us.

Sinclair B. Ferguson does an excellent job at explaining the basic principles through which God reveals His will to us. He then goes on to apply them to several practical situations such as marriage, career choices, and lifestyle.

For us young people facing the decisions that could shape the direction and path of our lives, this clearly written, easily understood book brings understanding in knowing how God reveals His will to us - His chosen people.

CHURCH NEWS

by Lora Ellerbroek

GRANDVILLE (Michigan)

On April 26 Andrew James, infant son of David and Julie Van Overloop, received the sacrament of baptism.

The Lord took unto Himself our dear brother Bert Maring.

We extend our sympathy to Kathy Vander Kolk in the sudden death of her father.

We rejoice with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Boverhof who celebrated their 40th anniversary May 6.

Bill and Alice Joostens were blessed with the birth of a daughter.

At their request the papers of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Engelsma were transferred to Hope, Walker.

SOUTH HOLLAND (Illinois)

Mrs. Esther Van Baren celebrated her 97th birthday on April 25.

The consistory has received the membership papers of Terry and Ruth Fennema and four children from Orland Park CRC and the papers of Ted and Audra Andringa and one child from Southwest PRC.

We rejoice with Paul and Debra De Young

who were blessed with the birth of Chelsea Joy. She received the sacrament of baptism May 31.

Duane and Mary Bruinsma were blessed with the birth of Carl Duane. He received the sacrament of baptism May 31.

On May 31 Jessica Lanting made public confession of her faith.

The consistory received the membership papers of Lynn (nee Vandebilt) Lubbers of Calvary Reformed Church.

The membership papers of Laurence Lautenbach from Orland Park CRC have been received.

DOON (Iowa)

We rejoice with Mr. and Mrs. Paul De Roon in the birth of Dayna Nicole.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Jana Beth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Regnerus.

PEACE (Illinois)

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Danielle Joy, infant daughter of Dan and Dawn Zandstra on May 17.

IMMANUEL (Canada)

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

Michelle Linker made confession of her faith March 29.

The membership of Mr. and Mrs. L. Stol have been received from Bethel PRC.

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Zylstra rejoice in the birth of a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Len Stol celebrated their 40th anniversary April 25.

SOUTHEAST (Michigan)

A welcome program was held May 1 for Rev. Kuiper and his family.

The membership papers of Scott Velting were transferred to Byron Center PRC at his request.

We rejoice with Dirk and Carol Monsma who were blessed with an infant daughter, Emily Nicole, through Bethany Christian Services.

Congratulations to Mrs. Agatha Reitsma who celebrated her 91st birthday June 21.

Russ and Amy Zwak rejoice in the birth of Kraig Robert on June 17.

HOPE (Walker)

The membership papers of Mr. and Mrs. Martin (Emma) De Vries were received from Randolph PRC.

The sacrament of baptism was administered May 24 to Julie Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Van Den Top, and Jared Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bosveld.

We extend sympathy to Ira and Mary Veenstra in the death of Mary's father and to Hank and Deb VanderWaal in the death of his mother.

The wedding ceremony of Mark Langerak and Elizabeth Engelsma was held May 8.

REDLANDS (California)

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Ashley Robyn, the infant daughter of Tammy and Robert Van Uffelen.

Miss Sue Porte celebrated her 90th birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ekema celebrated their 55th anniversary.

On May 17 Michael Koot, Lori Feenstra, Sara Den Hartog and Tim Bleyenberg made public confession of their faith.

Mrs. Margaret McNeece celebrated her 84th birthday.

FAITH (Michigan)

The public confession of faith of Gary Brummel, Brad Schwarz and Jay Van Baren were made May 10.

The Tim Van Dyke family was blessed with the birth of Kyle Herman.

The congregation extends its sympathy to the families of Rev. and Pat Koole, Larry and Pat Koole, Don and Jackie Offringa, and Andy and Mary Brummel in the death of their father, uncle, and grandfather.

HUDSONVILLE (Michigan)

The consistory has received the membership papers of Mr. Kelly Ellerbroek from Central Ave. CRC in Holland.

Mr. Dick Teitsma and Mrs. Gertrude Kuiper were united in marriage May 14.

The sacrament of baptism was administered May 17 to Patrice Dawn daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Veele.

Rev. C. Hanko celebrated his 85th birthday with an open house on May 20.

The consistory transferred the membership of Mr. David Kamps to Southwest PRC.

The membership papers of Mr. and Mrs. Truett Hugg (Virginia) and four children were received from Houston, TX.

We extend congratulations to Doug Myers and Glenda Zwak in their marriage June 26.

Mrs. Sophia Arens passed away and sympathy is extended to her family (Mrs. Howard Kraker and family).

We extend congratulations to Mrs. Mary Hol-

stege who celebrated her 81st birthday July 12.

HULL (Iowa)

The papers of Miss Kristen Kooiker have been transferred to Southeast PRC at her request.

The papers of Miss Melanie Moore have been received back from Grandville PRC at her request.

We extend sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Evert A. Van Maanen in the death of her father.

The sacrament of baptism was administered April 26 to Dana Elizabeth, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alden De Jong, and to Kyle Jon, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Westra.

The membership papers of Mr. Barry Pollema have been received from Trinity CRC (Rock Valley).

LOVELAND (Colorado)

We rejoice with Marvin and Esther Schwarz in the birth of Jonathan Arthur June 15.

A church picnic was held on the 4th of July.

SOUTHWEST (Michigan)

We extend sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Feenstra and family in the sudden death of his father.

The sacrament of baptism was administered May 24 to Lisa Joy, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randall VanderVeen.

Miss Lena Koppenol celebrated her 86th birthday May 20.

Mr. Seymour Beiboer celebrated his birthday May 25.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Marty VanderWal in the birth of Catherine Joy on May 23.

HOLLAND (Michigan)

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Haan were blessed with the birth of Kaitlin Joy. The sacrament of baptism was administered June 28.

The public confession of faith of Susan Overway and Brenda Yonker took place on June 21.

Proverbs 31:10-31 sets before us the portrait of a beautiful woman in Israel. The passage says nothing about her physique, about her facial features or her figure. But it sets before us a most beautiful woman, a woman with a striking beauty that is seen only in Israel, the church of God. The wise mother of Lemuel had warned her royal son against the seduction of evil women and connected temptations, and had given him the fundamental rules for governing his kingdom. She now sets before him this full-length portrait of a virtuous woman, that choicest gift which is said emphatically in proverbs 19:14 to be from Jehovah.

Far Above Rubies, A Virtuous Woman,
p. 3, Rev. Steven R. Key

SEX & DATING

in the Christian Life

Speaker
Ron VanOverloop
Pastor in the Protestant Reformed Churches

Calvin College

Fine Arts Center
3201 Burton, S.E., Grand Rapids, MI

Thursday, September 17, 1992
8:00 p.m.

Question and Answer period to follow.

Tapes of this lecture will be available from
Southeast Protestant Reformed Church
1543 Cambridge Ave., S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506