

SPECIAL FOCUS

Earlier this year Covenant Christian School (Lynden, Washington) celebrated its tenth anniversary. It is our pleasure to be able to make that celebration the "focus" of our attention in this rubric of Perspectives' summer issue. (The school building is pictured on the front cover.)

We thank several different writers for their respective parts in the article which follows. The first part of the "brief history" (after the two introductory paragraphs by Mr. Hilton) came some time ago from the pen of Mr. Henry Kuiper, who himself constituted half of the school's first teaching staff, and, as the school's first administrator, had much to do with Covenant Christian's solid beginning as a Protestant Reformed elementary school. Highlights of succeeding school years are provided by Mr. Robert Adams, who has been part of Lynden's staff for the past five years, during one of which he served as acting principal. The third part of the article, dealing with Covenant's reason for existence, was written by Mr. Harold Tolsma, secretary of the Board at the time of his writing of it. Finally, there is from Mr. John Hilton, the school's current administrator, a short tribute to Miss Genevieve Lubbers, the one teacher who has been with Covenant for its entire history. We understand that at the April 22 celebration Miss Lubbers received special recognition in the form of a bouquet of roses from Covenant's Ladies' Aid, and a painting from the school board. It's fitting therefore that she be recognized here too.

With one voice the above writers give due thanks to God for faithfulness to His covenant promises. May we be inspired, in the reading of it, to do the same.

Covenant Christian

(a Brief History)

It is good to have opportunities such as we have now to recount the events that have taken place during the formation and development of Covenant Christian School. Did these things or anything occur outside of God's counsel? No! Our Father has been with us all along. We are thankful for His provision for the

nurturing of our covenant seed in the area of its education.

The December 1, 1980 issue of *The Standard Bearer* was devoted to all of the Protestant Reformed schools. From that issue we reprint portions of the history of Covenant Christian School, and add some of the highlights of our history since then:

Approximately 120 miles north of Seattle, a mere three miles from the United States/Canada border, and only thirteen miles from Pacific waters, lies the peaceful little village of Lynden, Washington. Here, through the missionary labors of Rev. A. Cammenga in the late 1940's, God rekindled a love for the pure, historic Reformed faith. The result of those labors, under God's gracious blessing, was the establishment of the Lynden Protestant Reformed Church in 1951.

It was the members of this congregation, having the knowledge of the blessings and demands of God's eternal covenant, who established in August of 1977 the Society for Protestant Reformed Education in Lynden. And so, in a flurry of subsequent yet determined events, began our little school in order to provide instruction for the seed of these Reformed believers according to the truth of Holy Scripture.

In January of 1978 the society purchased the present school property, and on March 21 de-

cided to begin classes in the fall, if qualified teachers were available. After substantial remodeling of the building, the parents in awe were thankful to open our school that August 31 to begin the first year of operation of Covenant Christian School. What a mighty provision by God!

During the first year, with a staff of two teachers (Mr. Henry Kuiper and Miss Genevieve Lubbers), we taught 30 students in grades 1-8. And in May, 1979, we rejoiced after the first year's labors, to witness the first graduation from the eighth grade. At the end of that year, the Society decided to add the kindergarten and high school that fall, if we were able to obtain an additional teacher on our staff to assist in the work. God granted that too. (Mr. David Zandstra)

Again during the second year, the Society decided to add also the sophomore year to our high school department the following year, if that should prove to be God's will by His sending us our fourth teacher. This, too, He gave. (Mr. Gary Lanning)



Year-by-year highlights since that article are as follows:

1981-1982

Mr. Robert Vermeer joined the school to teach math, science, and the business courses. The

eleventh grade was added. The stage of the gym was removed and an additional classroom was added.

1982-1983

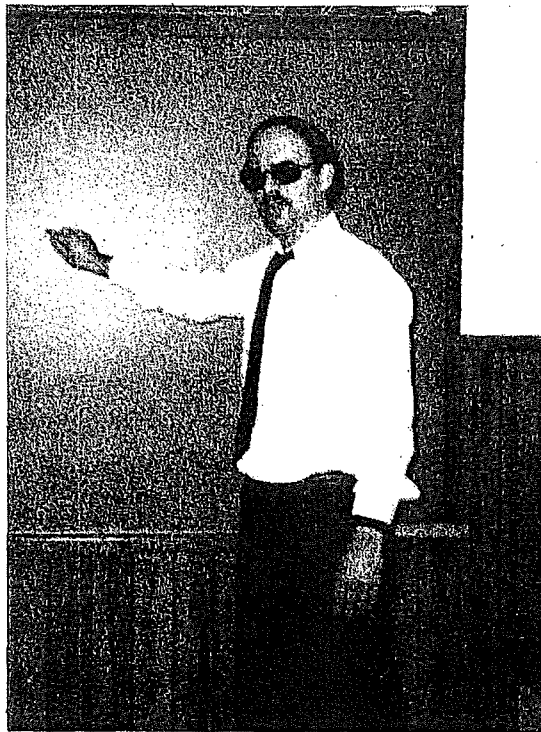
The high school was completed with the twelfth grade added. Covenant held its first high school graduation. Miss Lavonne DenBesten came to teach the 3rd-5th grades.

1983-1984

Mr. Robert Adams was added to the staff to teach in junior high. The school purchased its first computer.

1984-1985

Miss Judy Kuiper (soon to have become Mrs. Judy



Mr. Robert Adams

Buiter) was hired to teach "half" days in grades 3-5. A fence that borders the Haveman Road was built.

1985-1986

Mr. Ivan Bleyenbergh joined the staff as the 6th/7th grade teacher. Mrs. Buiter taught grades 3-5 full-time. A shortage of staff made it impossible for us to offer full-time instruction beyond the 10th grade. However, six 11th grade students came for the morning hours of high school instruction. Two more computers were purchased.

1986-1987

Mr. John Hilton became the new Administrator/Prin-



Mrs. Kuiper and kindergartners

cipal. Full-time instruction of the 11th and 12th grades was resumed. Miss Linda Feenstra came to teach the 3rd and 4th grades. The first annual Jr./Sr. banquet was held.

1987-1988

Mrs. Kuiper became the new Kindergarten teacher. Mr. Fred Hanco also joined us to be the new Junior High teacher. Miss Feenstra became Mrs. Smit. There were various proposals for building new classrooms and/or a gym. At the end of the year we celebrated our 10th year, by God's grace!

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From that same issue of *The Standard Bearer* there was a statement regarding the motive for having Covenant Christian School. Here are excerpts from that article:

We, as Christian parents, have been instructed by the Scriptures (Deut. 6:1-9) to rear our children in the admonition of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are told to teach them diligently the fear of the Lord and joyful obedience to His commandments.

Our baptismal vows are in direct accordance with God's Words in Scripture. These vows confessed before God and His church require believing parents "to see these children, when come to the years of discretion,

instructed and brought up in the aforesaid doctrine, or help or cause them to be instructed therein, to the utmost of your power." This certainly means that we as believing parents must seek to establish our own Protestant Reformed Christian schools, so we can fulfill this beautiful vow to the utmost of our ability. We *must not* settle for less. Other Christian or public schools cannot satisfy our holy vow.

To be obedient to Deuteronomy 6, we seek, through our schools and in our family lives, to rear our children to become Christ-like adults. By this we mean children who are meek, pure in heart, peacemakers, merciful, humble, patient, diligent — men and women who will give God all praise and honor throughout their lives. A formidable task? Yes, truly it is, and impossible without the wisdom and guidance of our Lord. Our task is great, but Christ tells us to be faithful to it.

We can be confident that He will bless our efforts and some day will say to us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

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The people of Lynden are thankful to God for the service of Miss Genevieve Lubbers during all the ten years of Covenant Christian School's existence. Her

excellent teaching in the lower grades has provided a strong basis for the future education of the children here, especially as it provided an enthusiasm for learning, a solid background in the Scriptures, and firm structure for social behavior and study habits. May God graciously give you many more years to serve Him in this important calling, Miss Lubbers.



Miss Genevieve Lubbers

FEATURE

When one reads the word "basics," in the context of "education," of what is he likely to think? Of studying phonics, perhaps? . . . and of conjugating verbs; . . . and of memorizing multiplication tables? That's what "the basics" are all about, aren't they? Readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic — the basics. . . as in "Basics, Back to the. . ." For just a moment there, when I saw the title "Remembering the Basics," I imagined that I knew what would be the thrust of Rev. Kuiper's article. That was until I read his first paragraph. Then I saw, and had to admit shamefacedly, how wrong I had been. For there are indeed "basics" which are more basic than the "how-to's" of formal education. Covenant children, parental schools, instruction permeated by the infallible Scriptures. . . . Ah yes, *these* are the basics. True it is that our schools must remain strong academically. If students leave our schools less than highly literate, we have failed them. If our students do not in our schools receive a good foundation in science, geography, history, literature. . . we have failed them. But, above all else, we may never let time dim our perception of