

against behavioral catastrophe. As Dr. Noel Weeks, author of *The Christian School* remarks, "To see physical punishment as the very last resort, never to be used except in some rare and extreme circumstance, is not taking Proverbs seriously" (p. 70).

The Lord sends such trials as the state's attempts to control our schools for the benefit of His people. It is time, I think, for homes, school boards, and teachers to re-evaluate their dedication to Biblical principles and practices of discipline. The apostle Peter tells us that no form of chastisement is, at the time, pleasant, and that is as true for him who receives the chastisement as it is for him who must

administer it. But Scripture is clear on this point and, as ever, changeless. The rod is not the product of a crueler, less enlightened age, a relic of the days of inadequate psychological understanding of the child. It was and remains a part of the God-ordained way to produce the peaceable fruit of righteousness. To deny the rod, at home or in school, in sum or in part, is to confess hatred of our children. It is to condemn them to a life of godless foolishness. And it is to invite shame, not only upon father and mother in the home, but upon mother church, her risen Lord, and upon the heavenly Father of us all.

CURRENT ISSUES

Where in the World is Zaire?

Brian Dykstra

The December 1988 issue of the *National Geographic* contained a map of the world. If asked, could you point, on that map, to the continent on which you live? Could you locate, even in a general fashion, the nation in which you live? Might you even

be able to locate the particular area of your nation in which you live? Would you be insulted if I were to ask you these questions in a way which suggested that I felt you could not "find yourself"? I hope so.

The August 8, 1988 issue of

Newsweek printed an article titled, "Lost on the Planet Earth." It bemoans the shocking lack of geographical knowledge on the part of American adults. The article begins: "'Have you heard of the lost generation? We have found them,' said Gilbert M. Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic Society, which last week released a report on the dismal state of Americans' knowledge about the globe. 'They are lost. They haven't the faintest idea where they are.'"

The article then relates some shocking findings of research done by Gallup. Fourteen percent of Americans were unable to pick out the United States on a world map. *Newsweek* suggests tongue in cheek, "Perhaps Gallup should have included a helpful 'You are here' pointer." Only half knew that Arabs and Jews were fighting in Israel. "One in three cannot name any of the members of NATO — 16 percent think the Soviet Union is a member of the group. And 5 percent don't know that Washington is the nation's capital."

Could an ignorance of geography be something serious for us? Remember, geography is more than knowing where cities or nations are. Geography also includes the study of how soil conditions, the availability of water, and the climate affect

man as he lives on earth.

Gilbert M. Grosvenor feels that geographic ignorance is serious. He wrote an article called "Will We Mend Our Earth?" in the December 1988 *National Geographic*. Grosvenor writes: "The National Geographic society began its first century with a determination to better understand the world. We have begun our second with the same determination but with an added imperative: to encourage a better stewardship of the planet. . . .

"All our concerns, all our hopes point to a need for better knowledge of geography. How can we hope for good stewardship of this planet if we don't know how life interacts with life? How can we hope to live peacefully with our fellow man if we don't comprehend where or how he lives? How can we hope to remain a successful economic competitor if we know so little of the nations we are competing against?"

Grosvenor, of course, approaches the subject from a godless point of view. Such is very evident in his title where the earth is called "*our* earth." Man is not viewed as the steward of the earth by virtue of God's creating Adam as the caretaker of the garden. Grosvenor feels that the earth should be cared for since it will be man's home until the nuclear furnace of sun runs out of

fuel in a few million years, unless man has the technology to find a different place to live.

While the worldly can see the importance of geography, we should not feel that we could just as well leave the arena just for their use. Rev. J. Heys pointed out the importance of geography in a series of articles in Volume 39 of *The Standard Bearer* called "My Father's World." Rev. Heys began by stating: "Indeed this is God's world. It makes no difference what man may do with it. It makes no difference how greedily he may press it into the service of his own flesh. This world is God's and no one and nothing can ever change that. We may try to deny it. We may behave as though it is not at all true, but the fact still remains that it is His world. All of it! All the vastness of outer space. All the world of unseen germs and viruses. The depth of the sea which still remains unexplored by man and hides from his eyes many of God's works and creatures. The animate and inanimate creatures, the organic and inorganic substances, the heaven and earth, the WORLD in its broadest sense, it all is *God's world*."

In the second article of his series Rev. Heys speaks specifically about geography. "Surely it is in the Geography class that the child can be made to see most clearly that this is his Father's

world. He sees the mountains and the streams, the rich soil and the minerals, the plants and the animals, the food and the water for his life. And, if he has had a covenant training, if he has been taught in this subject by a believer, by one who gave instruction in His fear, that child will in reverence and awe cry out: 'My Father's world!' O, reader of these lines, do you want your child to do that?"

An understanding of geography will also help us as saints to watch for the signs of the return of Christ. Through geography, students can study the effects of the opening of the seventh seal which is recorded in Revelation 8. The opening of the seventh seal brings forth seven angels blowing trumpets. The first four trumpets deal with the increase of the destruction of the world.

A major cause of our geographic woes, in a national sense, is apathy. The *Newsweek* article concludes: "The vast majority of Americans in the Gallup survey still insist that they think geography is useful and important, but they obviously haven't taken the time to master the map. Why bother? Japanese capital, Korean cars, French wine, English nobility and Chinese food all find there way *here*. Who cares where *there* is?"

The cause for us is, perhaps, a lack of good geography texts.

able? After all, in order to sleep soundly tonight are you going to run to your atlas to find out where in the world Zaire is?

REPORT OF THE 34th ANNUAL
PROTESTANT REFORMED TEACHERS' CONVENTION
(October 27-28, 1988)

Gerald Kuiper

We began the convention with about 70 teachers meeting in South Holland Protestant Reformed School at 8:00 Thursday morning for registration. All of our schools in the Grand Rapids area and from South Holland were well represented. In addition, teachers came from the following Protestant Reformed schools: Hull, Iowa; Northwest Protestant Reformed Christian School in Doon, Iowa; Free Christian School of Edgerton, Minnesota; Loveland Protestant Reformed School from Loveland, Colorado; and Lynden Christian School all the way from Lynden, Washington. Following registration, opening devotions were held during which time we sang together (I always enjoy the spirited

singing of our teachers. I'm sure Martin Luther would approve of the singing of the "School masters"!).

We then enjoyed the keynote address by Rev. Ron VanOverloop entitled, "Teachers Seeking the Kingdom of Heaven." In this instructive and inspirational address Rev. VanOverloop pointed out that our duty as teachers is not only to impart knowledge, but to impart the fear of Jehovah as well. We stand beside our students as fellow citizens of the kingdom. He taught us that teachers are to model the fear of Jehovah, by confessing to one another and to our students our sins, and by showing one another our forgiveness. We are to present God as