

BULLETIN BOARD

GROUND-BREAKING AT COVENANT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Cal Kalsbeek

Saturday, October 8, 1988 was a special day for supporters of Covenant Christian High School in Walker, Michigan; for that day marked the official beginning of an extensive expansion program for the school. The ceremony was led by board president, Mr. David Ondersma, included special numbers from the Alumni Choir and a band ensemble, and focused on an appropriate message from Rev. J. Slopesma, pastor of the Hope Protestant Reformed Church.

Although the ground-breaking ceremony was the *official* beginning, much had been done many months before that made it a possibility. The following excerpts from a brochure produced by the board titled "A Message to Friends of Covenant Christian" will make that abundantly clear:

Long-range perspective: "In 1985 the Board established a planning committee to advise them on the long-range issues facing Covenant Christian High



Board members break the ground

School. Their report stated that 'the primary longer-range issue which the Board should address in its planning relates to the rapidly expanding student body projected from current enrollments in the elementary schools.' These projections indicate an enrollment of almost 300 students by the year 2,000, which is more than double the school's present size. An in-depth review resulted in the preparation of a Master Plan which would require by the year 2,000 a three-phase building program estimated at \$1.9 million (using current prices)."

Phase I Building Program:

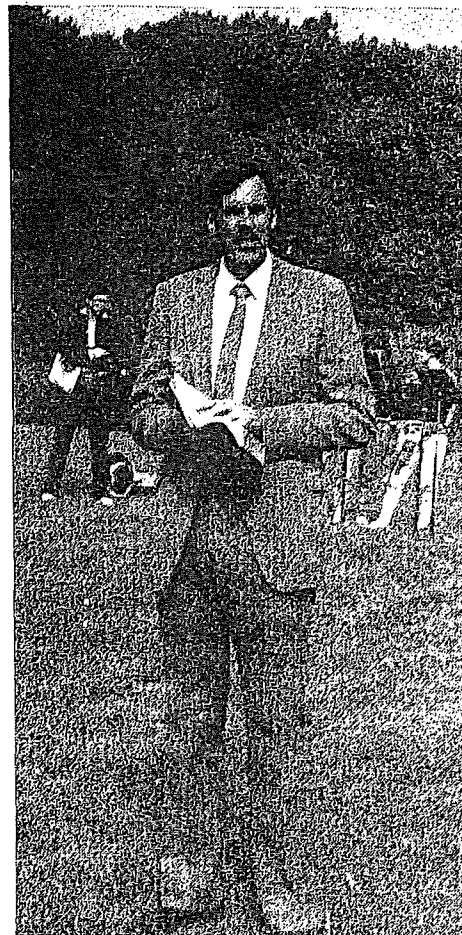
"New construction on the west side of the school building will result in an additional science room, the relocation of science prep/storage between the two science rooms, two regular classrooms, an enlargement of the small classroom just west of the lobby, and additional restrooms. Remodeling of the space east of the lobby entrance will increase the office size and provide better traffic flow in the office. The remodeling will also include a counselor's office, workroom, storage space, and the relocation of the principal's office and faculty/board room."

**REMARKS OF REV. SLOPSEMA
at Ground-Breaking Ceremony
(based on Psalm 127)**

We are reminded in Psalm 127

of the precious gift God has given us in our children. In verse 3 we read, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward." A heritage is a gift of great value. This is what our children are: gifts of great value given to us of God.

Our children are this because of the covenant. It is the good pleasure of God not to establish His covenant with individuals scattered here and there but with families. Therefore, as believing parents, we bring forth our children in the confidence that



Rev. Slopsema delivers address

God will place His children in our homes and establish with them His covenant. This makes our children the heritage of the Lord, gifts of great value to be treasured by us.

God has richly blessed us over the years in His covenant.

He has given us Covenant Christian High School for the past 20 years. And He has given us good teachers who have provided God-centered instruction for our children in this school to supplement the training our children receive in the home. For this we must be very thankful today.

But, in addition to this, God has blessed us with an abundance of younger children so that, if everything continues on its present course, our present facilities will be much too small in a few years. And so we have made plans for expansion. Today we break ground for the first of a three-phase expansion. Again we must thank God for all the children He has given to us.

But as we break ground today for this new addition, we must also be reminded from Psalm 127 that the success of our work depends upon the Lord.

In verse 1 of this Psalm we read, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchmen waketh but in vain."

Our ultimate goal in this expansion project is the spiritual growth and development of our children and grandchildren in God's covenant.

For that goal to be realized a number of things are necessary. First, we must find the financial resources to complete these building projects. Secondly, we must continue to find godly teachers, who will instruct our children from the viewpoint of God's Word. Finally, our children must receive and embrace this instruction with an open heart.

What we must realize and never forget is that all these things are in God's hands. For our high goal to be reached, God must provide us with the financial resources to complete these building projects. God must provide the instruction through dedicated teachers. And, most importantly, God must open the hearts of our children and grandchildren to the instruction they will receive from their parents and in this school.

We are breaking ground for a building project today. How true are the words of the Psalmist, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

With this before our mind's eye, let us labor not in our own strength. Let us rather rely upon the Lord, asking Him every day anew to bless the works of our hand.

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