

BACKGROUND BRIEFS

by Agatha Lubbers

The spring issue of the 1982-83 publishing season arrives a bit later than we wish for it to arrive. We hope that you missed it and that you have not given up hope. Our intention is to publish three issues a year and you have a right to expect *Perspectives* three times each year. With this issue of *Perspectives* we fulfill this commitment. The editor-in-chief assumes the full responsibility for the tardiness of this issue.

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One of the continuing problems that every magazine has is that it needs manuscripts if the periodical is to be published. One has no periodical without material and manuscripts. We obtain material for publication because we directly contact and solicit manuscripts from writers or we republish materials that have previously appeared in print. The latter we hesitate to do because we believe that the magazine should be a medium to publish fresh and current writing. *As editor-in-chief, I issue an urgent call for manuscripts.* Writing is a difficult but rewarding discipline. Teachers, parents, and friends of Christian education are hereby encouraged to submit manuscripts for publication.

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The issue this time contains several articles that are current in their importance. One of these is the article by Rev. David Engelsma, "Rearing Covenant Children for Life in the End-Time." This article was a speech delivered by the pastor of the Protestant Reformed Church in South Holland, Illinois, to the teachers assembled in the South Holland Protestant Reformed Christian School for the annual Protestant Reformed Teachers' Convention during the fall of 1982.

Another article is one written by the editor. This article was given first as a speech to those gathered for a dinner supporting Protestant Reformed Christian education in South Holland, Illinois.

Eunice Kuiper and Candace Hoeksema are sisters and both have an interest in Protestant Reformed Christian Education. Eunice Kuiper no longer is a full-time teacher but often serves in the position of substitute teacher. She writes from her perceptions as a classroom teacher. Candace Hoeksema teaches in the intermediate grades in the Protestant Reformed Christian School, South Holland, Illinois.

At this time of the year we think of promotion and retention. For this reason we decided to reprint an article that appeared first in the *Reflector* of the South Holland Protestant Reformed Christian School. Mr. Lamm Lubbers, principal, is the author of this article.

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God must be the major premise of every textbook. God must be the great assumption in every classroom. God must be the Person Whose handiwork is investigated in every laboratory. This means, of course, not some vague or distorted idea of God, but the living and true God, the God of the Bible. "In the beginning God" must be the watchword of all truly Christian education. In textbook, classroom, and laboratory the student will learn to think God's thoughts after Him. Unlike the student in a non-Christian institution, he will learn that human thought is never really creative in the strict sense, but always derived from the prior thought of God — that human "creative" thought is really the unfolding, in man's intellect, of God's eternal decree by which He has, from all eternity, fore-ordained all that comes to pass in time. What is new to the mind of man is as old as eternity to the mind of God.

"What is Christian Education?"

J.G. Vos