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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

By Agatha Lubbers, editor-in-chief

Included in this issue of **Perspectives** is an article originally delivered as a sermon by the late Rev. Herman Hoeksema. Although the article is 60 years old, the message is up-to-date because it emphasizes the need for covenant and God-centered education.

We have also included several articles which were initially prepared for presentation at mini-courses sponsored by THE FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT REFORMED SCHOOL SOCIETIES. We believe that our readers will be interested in the kinds of topics that our teachers discuss at these meetings which are made possible through funds provided by the member societies of the **Federation**. An article discussing Creative Writing by Agatha Lubbers and an article concerning the End Product of Education by Jon Huiskens are included.

THE FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT REFORMED SCHOOL SOCIETIES

also sponsors various workshops. The workshops staffed by Protestant Reformed teachers conducted from 1970 until 1973 have produced manuals and study guides for the teacher in the fields of literature, the social sciences, the teaching of written expression, and music. The most recent manual is a teachers' guide for teaching Bible stories to students in grade one. It is a manual containing a set of one hundred twenty-five lessons covering the period from the creation through the death of king Saul.

We include in this issue of **Perspectives** an article which originally appeared in the **Music Curriculum Guide**. Mr. Gerald Kuiper writes about the Need for Curriculum Development in Music as an introductory essay in this music guide.

The editorial staff of **Perspectives** believes that the journal is what it ought to be; i.e., "a medium for the development of distinctive principles and methods of teaching." We also believe that our parents, who are the primary educators of

the children who attend the schools in which we teach, are interested in these distinctive principles and these methods of teaching. It is for this reason that the PROTESTANT REFORMED TEACHERS' INSTITUTE publishes the magazine.

The editorial staff, as representatives of the Institute, solicits both your comments and your support for this important cause. We are grateful for the generous responses from both individuals and from organizations.

We solicit your comments, both adverse and complimentary, because we wish to know whether you agree or disagree with us in our avowed purpose and the direction in which our magazine moves. We solicit your support, both prayers and material gifts, because we believe that this is an important work

which the Institute is doing.

The Managing Editor of the magazine hereby announces that your first year subscription has expired. All those desiring the magazine, who have paid their first year subscription, are receiving this third edition of *Perspectives* and are asked to send to the Subscription Office the annual subscription fee of \$2.00. We assume that unless you notify us to the contrary, you desire to continue to receive the magazine.

Do you have a friend or relative to whom you wish the magazine to be sent? If you will include the name and addresses of these and include the appropriate subscription fees the magazine will be sent to them.

THE COVENANT SPHERES OF INSTRUCTION

by Rev. Jason Kortering

Rev. Jason Kortering is the pastor of the Protestant Reformed Church of Hull, Iowa. "The Covenant Spheres of Instruction" is one of a series of newsletters published by the Hull Protestant Reformed Christian School Society.

Within the covenant, one must constantly be instructed. A person never outgrows that need. With effort we can learn more of God's wonderful dealings with His people. The more we study, the more we marvel at God's greatness manifest in Himself and His works. Instruction has specific meaning as it applies to our children. They must learn to resist evil, Psalm 51:5,6. They must also learn to be children of God, thoroughly furnished unto every good work, II Timothy 3:16. The unique thing about our early years is that they are given entirely

to learning. How important it is that we use them to the fullest.

1. God has designated three areas of instruction: church, home, and school. There is something special and peculiar to each of these areas. The church is the sphere of grace. God has given to us His infallible Word. This Word is the basis of the preaching of the gospel and sacraments. When the preaching and sacraments are according to the Word, they are indeed the Word of God. The preacher may rightly say, "Thus saith the Lord." By this word, we are delivered from sin and death and brought into a personal fellowship of friendship with God. We and our children are saved by this grace, Ephesians 2:8. The home is the sphere of practical religion. As covenant parents and their children live together in the home they are called upon by God to apply