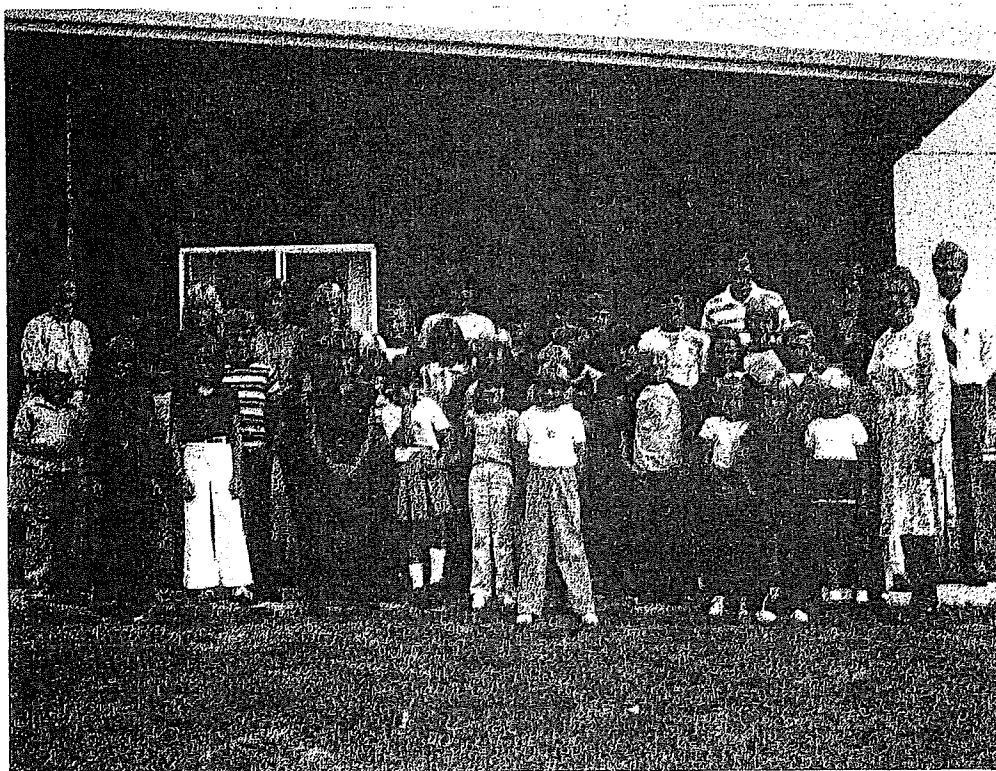


FEATURING OUR CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

In this issue of *Perspectives* we feature two of our Western Christian Schools. These are the schools in Redlands, California, and in Loveland, Colorado.

Loveland Protestant Reformed Christian School

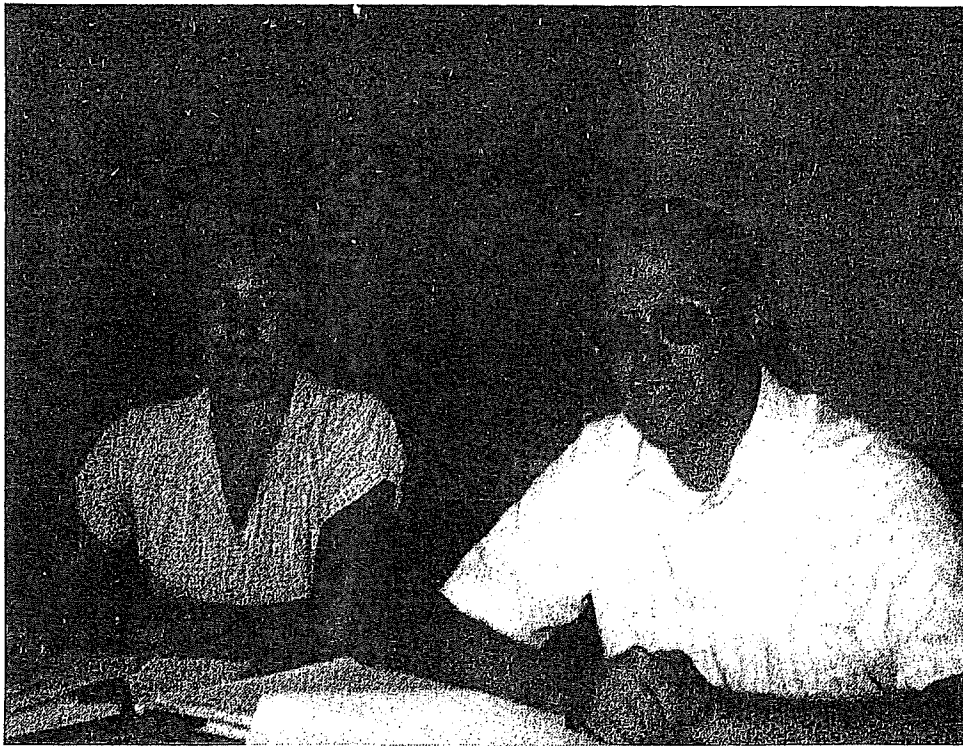


Students and Teachers. Teachers left to right are: Mrs. Jason Kortering, teachers' aide; Mr. Doug De Boer, grades 5-9; Mrs. Postma, Kindergarten; and Mr. Tom De Vries, grades 1-4.

Hope Christian School in Redlands

Back in 1934, shortly after the Redlands congregation was organized, the Hope Christian School first came into existence. For seven years the students received their instruction in the basement of the church. At that time it was the only Protestant Reformed school in the country. In 1941 a new school was constructed and from then until shortly after the controversy in 1953 it was used in the glorious task of giving covenant instruction to the heritage of the Lord. Some of the teachers back then were Miss Alice Reitsma, Mrs. Flossie (Hoekstra) Brunsting, Mrs. Ed Gritters, Mrs. Albert (Vander Werff) Karsemeyer, Mr. R.C. Boerkool, Mrs. Harriet Schipper, Miss Florence Terpstra, and Mr. Pete Zuidema.

In 1953 the congregation in Redlands suffered the severe affliction of the Lord. More than half the membership departed and took with them the church, the parsonage and also the school. For the next twenty-two years the Hope Christian School



Teachers of Hope Christian School, Redlands
Miss Laurie Buiter and Mr. John Kalsbeek

ceased to exist. However, some of the faithful remembered the days of old when they benefited as parents and also as students from their distinctive covenantal instruction and their desire was to reorganize and begin for a second time.

A school society was organized and the work of buying property, drawing up plans, determining the curriculum, hiring teachers and buying supplies began in earnest.

In 1973 everything seemed all set to go. The old school property was rented and two teachers were hired. The constituents were excited about the new beginning being made. But again they were to be disappointed; this time because the group who had agreed to rent them the facilities pulled out at the last moment.

This may have been a blessing in disguise because now the society was determined to go ahead and build their own school instead of renting one. The results were that Redlands opened up its own school on September 16, 1975. Mr. Dennis Van Uffelen writes in the June-July 1977 *Beacon Lights*, "This was a moment of great joy, an answer to the prayers of many parents....We, as parents and members of the School Society were thankful that God in His mercy had blessed our endeavors." There were still some odds and ends that had to be finished up at night by the parents but no matter, school had begun. Parents with cameras, kids with new clothes and smiles, and grandparents with tears in their eyes were welcomed that first morning by the two teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Jon Huiskens. I'm sure that all agreed with Rev. M. Kamps' commentary of the event as recorded in the March 1, 1976 *Standard Bearer*, "...we want to make clear to all that our prayers, labors, and the evidence of our labors is solely the fruit of God's irresistible grace. What we did, we did solely because it was the only way of obedience for covenant parents who seek God's blessing."

When one considers the smallness of the Society (some 20 to 30 men), the cost of constructing a school building, and all the physical labor that was put into such an endeavor plus the cost of maintaining such a school, the question immediately comes upon the lips, Why? Why did they spend all that money and do all that work? Why did they want to educate their own children in their own school? Again we quote from Rev. M. Kamps, "The answer, the only answer...is that the believers' faith is a living faith that thankfully appropriates the thrilling testimony of God's Word: For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. Acts 2:39."



Students of Hope Christian School, Redlands

Front row left to right. Scott Van Uffelen, Rick Gritters, Jared Huiskens, Jason Kalsbeek, Marlin Feenstra.

Second row - Dawn Van Uffelen, Gwennan Kalsbeek, Michelle Feenstra, Beth Van Meeteren, Brenda Mantel, Laurie Feenstra, Erika Kalsbeek

Third Row - Kelly Mantel, Jason Jabaay, Gerrit Meelker, Bert Meelker, Jordana Kalsbeek

Five years have already passed since that exciting and emotional beginning. Many of the original students have graduated and the original teachers have left. We are experiencing the low point in our student body at this time which has placed a heavy financial burden on the shoulders of the ten parents with children in the school. We are grateful for the generous help given each year by the other society members who contribute liberally to the cause—approximately one-third of the total cost. From now on for the next five years the projection shows a much needed increase in students and new parents. God's promises are sure. He is not slack to those who love Him. He has provided for us in the past and will continue to sustain us in the years ahead. It is in that confidence that the work of Christian instruction will continue here in Redlands.

In 1976 two new teachers took up their work in the Hope Christian School. Miss Neva Doezema—now Mrs. Steven Feenstra—taught grades Kindergarten through four. It was both an exciting but also at times a traumatic experience for a beginning teacher. She continued her work for three years before returning to Michigan. The other teacher was Mr. John Kalsbeek who came with his family from Doon, Iowa, to teach grades five through nine.

In 1979 Miss Laurie Buiter came to us from Loveland, Colorado, to teach in the lower room and will continue her work in the year ahead.

God has been good to us and He has indeed blessed us richly. We are small and in the eyes of the world—a laughing stock. Though the world despises the day of little things, yet we must and will continue to labor to bring up children that God has entrusted to our care and keeping in the fear of His name.

“The transcendent purpose of glorifying God means that the utilitarian demands of society for training in skills by which to earn a living will never be allowed to monopolize the character and content of the curriculum of a truly Christian college or university. The emphasis will always be on giving the student a valid, God-centered view of life as a whole. Courses of utilitarian character may properly be included, of course. But a truly Christian college or university will not allow courses on such subjects as salesmanship, bookkeeping and radio broadcasting to crowd out history, philosophy, literature, pure science, and religion. In other words, the main emphasis will always be on education rather than on training; the attainment of a unified view of life will be given priority over the acquisition of practical skills.”

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“In many traditional Christian colleges today the teaching of the Bible has moved so far from orthodoxy that it is actually worse than useless; it is downright harmful, and would better be omitted altogether. Better not teach young people the Bible at all, than to teach them that the Bible is full of contradictions, forgeries and errors, a collection of ancient myths and legends, and so forth. Better leave the Bible out entirely than to teach it in the distorted form required by a non-Christian, evolutionary philosophy.” Dr. J.G. Vos