

## SPECIAL FOCUS

*The picture on the front cover is that of the newest of the Protestant Reformed Christian Schools. That's Heritage Christian School, of course, in Hudsonville, Michigan. The school draws from families not only in Hudsonville but from Jenison, Zeeland, and Holland as well — all of which had for many years been served by our Hope School in Walker. It's conceivable, I suppose, that if Heritage were the first Protestant Reformed School in that area, there would have been a deeper joy in the opening of its doors. But the excitement, the enthusiasm, the gratitude so evident at the Open House held at the end of August were ample testimony to the fact that Heritage is not taken for granted by the families which make up the constituency of this new school. We are happy for them, and pray that the instruction given there might be prospered under the rich blessing of our faithful, covenant-keeping God.*

*Gerald Kuiper, whose teaching career began in Edgerton Protestant Reformed School and continued at Adams, Hope, Loveland, and, most recently, Covenant Christian High School, is the new school's new administrator. We are glad that, busy as he was with all of the details involved in the opening of the school, he nevertheless agreed to provide the following short article for this issue's "Special Focus."*

## Heritage Christian School

Gerald Kuiper

"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea I have a goodly heritage. . . . All thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children."

These beautiful truths from God's Word are the basis for our building parental schools for the purpose of instructing our children. The fact that the Lord has greatly blessed us in the West



Michigan area is certainly evident again as the number of children is so great that we have a need for another school in the Hope/Hudsonville area.

For the past several years the Board of Hope Protestant Reformed School had been trying to figure out how to deal with a fast growing enrollment. When the student body at length grew to the point where the existing plant could no longer accommodate them, rooms were rented from the Grandville Public Schools, and, later, land was bought in Hudsonville for the purpose of building a satellite school there. A depressed economy postponed the building project, however, and with more consideration it was decided that a separate society should be formed in the Hudsonville area. So about a year ago Hope Society members from Holland, Hudsonville, Byron Center, and Jenison formed the Society for Protestant Reformed Education in Hudsonville, and plans were made for the opening of a six-room school in the Fall of 1985. The members of the new society decided that the new school would be known as Heritage Christian School.

As time passed and more studies were made it became evident that six rooms would not be sufficient for a projected enrollment of 190. The Board therefore reverted to the original plan, which had been for a plant which would house nine classrooms, plus a science-classroom, library, offices, kitchen, and a gymnasium. An agreement was made between the two school boards whereby, in addition to a large cash contribution, the Hope School Society would give to the Heritage Society the parcel of land and the building plans. The effort then was a united one, and we are thankful that together we continue to work for the cause of the education of our children.

To accommodate an enrollment of about 215 students, nine full-time teachers, one part-time teacher, and a band director have been contracted for the '85-'86 school year. The Society for Protestant Reformed Special Education will also be providing a certified Special Education teacher to set up a resource room to be used during the mornings.

The new teachers, school board, and members of the Society are eagerly awaiting the opening of our school on September 4, 1985, the Lord willing. Many volunteers have served on committees, worked to raise funds, and given of their time and money so that our new school can be built and furnished. The fruit of these labors can be seen as we watch our modern energy-efficient facility take shape. It is our prayer that God may use this means He has given us, so that our children may indeed "be taught of the Lord." To God alone be the glory!