

# THE ASSOCIATION FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN IRELAND

The Association for Christian Education in Ireland grew out of the concern of several members of the Reformed Presbyterian (Covenant) Church of Ireland for reformed, parent-controlled education for their covenant children. The *Testimony* of that Church commits the denomination to the idea of such schools, but none exist at the present time. At the request of some members, the 1978 Synod of the Church set up a Sub-Committee on Christian Education to investigate the matter. After discussions lasting one year, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Church itself not set up schools, but provide a framework in which such schools would become reality. After another year of work by a reconstituted Sub-Committee, the Association for Christian Education in Ireland was formed in Belfast in April, 1980, with eight charter members. It has since grown to 32 members, most of them found in the greater Belfast area, but others in northern County Antrim, Londonderry, and the Irish Republic.

The Association holds public meetings throughout the north of the island, and finds gradually increasing interest stretching across denominational divides but generally involving people of evangelical and reformed theology. Each applicant for membership is carefully investigated by the Committee (the Board) in order to maintain the confessionally reformed character of the organization. The Association is loosely affiliated with the Christian Parent-Teacher League in the British Isles, and one of the Committee members, Mr. Adam Mastris, is Irish representative of the League.

The major effort in publicity so far was a "Christian Schools Week" in April, 1981, featuring Dr. Michael Ruiter of Christian Schools International, and Mr. Stanley Koster of Holland Christian Schools. They provided much-needed expertise and stimulation to a group most of whose members have never seen a Christian school let alone studied in one! The wide publicity the visit afforded identified a number of potential supporters, so that the Association is moving out of a narrowly Reformed Presbyterian mold. As a result of this week, the Association is working toward the opening of the first school, Lord willing, in September, 1982.

The members of the Association have had to bear the reproach of many who believe they are fundamentalistic or impractical or

both. Yet their hope is not in men but in the Lord of the covenant, who has entrusted them with the precious children of that covenant to nurture and instruct. Can they do anything less than provide a school where the instruction of church and family will be reinforced, and indeed, developed?

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## LANGUAGE AND BRAIN LATERALIZATION

by David M. Harbach

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Lateralization of the brain is an important aspect of our every day life and yet, we often are not aware that there is an important connection between lateralization of the brain and our ability to acquire language, to speak our language, to read our language, and to understand our language. In addition, there is a time in our life that is the most important for learning another language, which of course has a tremendous pedagogical impact for teachers and students. This report is divided into three major areas: the historical research of speech aphasias and epileptics, the critical age for language lateralization, and the pedagogical implications of lateralization of the brain. This report is to be open ended because new findings in brain lateralization will change our understanding of this important aspect of our daily life.

Let us begin with the first major area, the historical research. In order to help you to visualize the left hemisphere of the brain, I have provided two drawings, the first drawing (fig. 1, p. 18) is for the identification of the names of places in the brain that are most important for language acquisition, while the second drawing (fig. 2, p. 18) shows