

Northern Lights



**See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16**

**Free Christian School
Edgerton, Minnesota
January 2019**

Convention Speech Summary

Eph 5:15-16 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The opening meeting of a teachers' convention features a keynote address. This year's address was delivered by Rev. Haak, minister of Georgetown PRC. His topic based on the convention theme verses, Ephesians 5:15-16, was entitled "Progressive Sanctification-The Growing of the Man of God." His subtitle was "A Wise Word to Wise Teachers." While this speech was geared to teachers, its message was for parents and others alike.

His basic premise was that teachers must know the Scriptures so that they can use the Scriptures. That is wise counsel for all of us. That is why devotions, memory work, and Bible lessons are so important for the schools. Not only must teachers know and use the Scriptures, but they must also teach students to know the Bible and to be ready to use the Bible at any time.

His speech was broken into two parts: I. Wise up taken from verse 15 and II. Wake up taken from verse 16. The word circumspectly means to look around for accuracy. Teachers must be prepared to teach in a way to be appropriate for the situation. They must teach the wisdom of God in all things. In order to do this, they, like the parent must know the child who is

wet clay to be molded in the ways of God. The teachers must use wisdom to mold the child as a skilled craftsman. There is no such book as *Wisdom for Dummies*. Our devotional lives are what gives to us the wisdom to bring up the children God has give to us. In fact we must carry out a lifelong apprenticeship under the master teacher of wisdom, the Bible.

We must wake up and do this now because the time for it is now. As verse 16 says the days are evil, and therefore we must redeem the time. We have to know how to use the time we have with the covenant seed because we do not know how much time we have with them. We must think of Ecclesiastes 3: the famous "To every time there is..." chapter. We must do this now because we work on God's calendar not ours. There may be no tomorrow.

Rev. Haak, in his own inimitable way, showed to us how precious a calling that we have as teacher, but also that parents have. He showed to us the value that there is in reading God's Word, knowing God's Word so that we can use God's Word wisely for the benefit of the covenant children that we have. May this be our goal as we parent and teach covenant children in our homes and in our school.

In His service,
Mr. Hunter

News from the Lower Room:

Greetings from the Lower Room. Things have been a little different here since we came back from Christmas vacation. Mrs. Brummel has joined our little room as the morning teacher. She is doing a great job filling in for Mrs. Brands.

We are continuing in our Reading books and our Vowac workbooks. Our individual marker boards, or slates as I call them, are getting quite the workout every day. Each lesson requires a listening drill at the beginning and words to dictate throughout the lesson. Also, not because I'm a tree hugger or dislike more papers to grade, but because with one or two children in the class it just works better to do some extra practice on slates rather than paper. Because of all that use, we are sharing a lot of dry erase markers these days so we could all use another couple markers to get us through the year. Reading and Vowac are our daily assignments.

Social studies, map workbooks and science are the subjects that come next though not as regularly due to time constraints. Anna has just started a new unit on vertebrates and Brandon, Quinton, and Arie just finished their unit on plants and will begin with animals next week too.

For some reason, it is art and PE that they really look forward to having every week. I usually get asked immediately when I walk into the room on Friday what we are

going to do for art. I still have to chuckle to myself when these lessons go well because I'm quite certain my own grade school art and PE teachers rolled their eyes at my lack of talent in these areas. I'm enjoying finding fun projects for art and making them with the kids. Going to Southwest's gym every Wednesday is a highlight for them. I'm convinced a couple of them would be happy just to run laps around the gym the whole time, others not at all, so we find time to run and time for other games and skills.

There are many advantages to having such a small school. There is a lot of time for individual help and when you are the only one or one of two in the class it is extremely difficult to "fall through the cracks." I love to drag a chair around and sit by each student as I work with them.

There are, however, a few disadvantages, too. Lately the students have been struggling with getting along. We know each very well, so well I in fact that we know exactly what buttons to push and sometimes bicker just like brothers and sisters. We have so many little personalities. We have 4 boys and one girl. We have 3 youngest children, and 2 middle children. We have two sets of first cousins. I've been trying to find a way to make them all closer, but it was idea given to me by another mother that allowed me to really work on this week. I decided that we were going to have a "buddy" for the day. Their

desks would be put together with a different student everyday and that would be the friend to talk with and play with that day. This week we made a Friendship Journal so we could write down kind things about their friends. After we finished writing about each classmate, we got up and read them to each other.

Here are their journals with very little revision on spelling and grammar because "kid writing" is so very cute.

Mrs. Ver Hey

Anna Gunnink

January 15 Arie is my best friend he is nice to me. I never saw the fastest person I ever saw. Arie, you make me laugh all the time. Your friend, Anna

January 16 Quinton is my best friend too. He is the second fastest person I ever seen in my life. Quinton is very nice to me every day. Your friend, Anna

January 17 Joey is my favorit cusin he likes to play with me. We laugh when we like to play batman. Joey makes me laugh and be nice to me.

January 18 Brandon is a very kind person. He makes me laugh all the time. He does funny things.

Brandon Boverhof

January 15 Quinton, I think you are a super kid! You do evrey thing I say.

January 16 Joey, you make nice pitchers.

January 17 Arie, you are so neat at droling on your slate.

January 18 Anna is my 4th favrit frend. You always be nice to me.

Arie VerHey

January 15 Anna is nise. You are sweet, you are my nabr [neighbor].

January 16 Quinton is sweet. You are funny. You and me need a sleepover.

January 17 Brandon is nise. You are cute in those litol glasses.

January 18 Joey is nice and sweet.

Quinton Brands

January 15 About Brandon, he has kool glasses. He is so funny and silly. He owes [always] smily when I look at him!

January 16 Anna she is niser and sweter than everyone.

January 17 Josiah, he has black hair and that is soooooo cool.

January 18 Arie is my casesin [cousin] and he is my faverite cacein and he is the best.

Josiah Fennema

January 15 Brandon said he will come back to my house to play "the floor is lava". I promise I will make him a letter someday.

January 16 Anna played fort with me and we got a lot of rabbits. She is funny and a nice cousin.

January 17 Arie likes to play nerf guns at my house. Arie is funny.

January 18 Quinton played “Clue” at my house. Quinton does funny stuff.

Upper Room News

Once the Christmas program is over and we get through the Christmas break, it is time to finish up the first semester. This has several components. There are exams for the seventh and eighth graders. I try to find a natural break in our studies so that they are not breaking in the middle of a unit. That is why we have an extra week between the end of the first semester and report cards. We also have ITBS. These exercises have several uses. First, it helps students, parents, and teachers ascertain where the students are in the various subject areas. Secondly, it helps students learn what these kinds of tests are as they will have more of them as their school career goes on. Finally it helps them remember that they must glorify God in all kinds of situations. As the SWMTA is no longer sponsoring a fine arts night, the board has decided to combine our students’ work in these areas with our project night. More details will be coming out soon. Music night will still be held as I have informed you in the *What’s Up’s*.

We also still work on writing. The seventh and eighth graders chose to participate in the *Dordt 400* writing contest and asked if that could be used as their “Big One” project. Parents and teachers acquiesced to this request, and the students spent the third six weeks working on their

projects. These will be on display on project night. They have written a small paragraph about the project for this issue of the *Northern Lights*. The fifth graders were assigned to write a poem about anything. Many liked this idea. The fourth grader was assigned to write about our usual cold weather fun, ping-pong. We hope you enjoy these submissions.

Canons of Dordt

For the past six weeks Lucas, Nickolas, and I have been working on a report about the Canons of Dordt. It was an English assignment given to us because there is a contest going on, and we recently turned the essay in on January 15. The Canons of Dordt is a written document telling us what to believe in and what not to believe in. The writing of the canons of Dordt all started with a man named Jacob Arminius who was greatly against true Christian beliefs; therefore, the Synod of Dordt gathered together on November 13, 1618 in Dordrecht, Netherlands and wrote the Canons of Dordt. They then came to an end of the writing on May 29, 1619. During this report I learned many things, and am very glad that I did it.

Makenna Brands

The Canons of Dordt

The seventh and eighth grade class does a research and writing project every year, which we call the "Big One". For the past six weeks, the seventh and eighth graders worked on an essay about the Canons of Dordt. We were to write our essays using these guidelines: what they are, what they teach and oppose, why they had to be written out, and what the importance of them is for us today. The essay had to be four to five pages long and a bibliography was to be included. We were able to merge this with a writing contest sponsored by the Protestant Reformed Churches as part of their celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the Synod of Dordt. The essays were due for the contest on January 15 where they will be graded by the Theological School Committee. This project has been fun and exciting for me. I know a lot more on the Canons of Dordt now than I did when we started in November.

Nickolas Boverhof

Big One

From November 26 to January 19 we worked on our English report called "The Big One." This report was to be on the Canons of Dordt. It was for the Dordt 400 contest in which we could try to win money. At first it was a little confusing on what to do, but Mr. Hunter had a bunch of resources that we could read. Mr. Hunter bought us a

book called "The Glory of Grace." He assigned us to read the opening and the conclusion of the canons in the back of the *Psalter* and the book that he bought us. The first two and a half weeks were research weeks. Then he told us to start typing it out in the third week. The first draft was due on January 4. Then he showed us how to make a title page and the bibliography or citation of sources. The final draft was due on January 11. On January 14 my mom sent it to writingcontest@Dordt 400 Org.

I think it was good idea for us to learn about this because it is about our churches, and how we believe we are saved. It was also a fun time reading and researching about it.

Lucas Fennema

The Bird's Song

Early in the morning,
The birds are singing.

The song of birds that we know so well,
We hear that sweet sound like a faint bell.

The lovely sound,
Makes our hearts pound.

Blue jay and cardinal,
Robin and oriole.

A wonderful sweet,
Miniature tweet.

To brighten our way,
Every lovely day.

Emily Boverhof

(Maybe this was a premonition!-Mr. H.)

Snowing For Days

It snowed for days,
and it didn't go away!
Everything was white,
it surely was a sight!
You couldn't see the grass,
the snow must of had some mass!
I was weak,
because it was snowing for weeks!
I was bored
so I unplugged a cord
I couldn't believe my eyes,
I could surely die!
School was out for days,
so I slept in everyday.
When I woke up it was all green,
turned out it was all a dream.

Alyvia Brands

History

I base this off of history
You might think a mystery.
George Washington the first president
Put up a tent
At Valley Forge
Then we think of Lincoln
When the war was just a sink in.
U.S. Grant the general
Was good until his burial.
We think of the Great War
When the solders heard the roar
They ran for their lives
Because they only had knives.

The solders in the trenches
Sunk down one-thousand inches.
World War II had many battles
The solders heard many rattles.
This is where I end the history
And now you know it is not a mystery.

Jaron Brands

Ice Fishing

You drilled some holes
Oops! I dropped my poles
I have my boots
Ouch! I tripped over some roots
The snow is on the ground
Don't drown
I'll give you one of my poles
Please don't drop it down one of the holes.
Wow! This is thick ice.
Is that hot rice?
We should start packing.
The ice, it's cracking.
Safe at last.
Hey! Who took my bass!

Levi Fennema

Night Lights

Lights are shining
Shining bright
I see and look at them every night
Some are big
Some are small
Some are close
Some are far
Up high in the sky

I see the stars
I see the Big Dipper
And see the Little Dipper
I look for shapes in the stars
While I'm looking for shapes in the stars
I eat some grapes.
Abbie Gunnink

Winter

To play on the ice
Is just so nice
If it is not too cold all day
Sledding is fun too
If you do not get hurt on the way.
If you've ever ridden a snowboard,
You're sure not to get bored
You just have to ride it all day.
Oh, and by the way,
You have to practice a lot, too,
Because practice makes perfect,
And when you're done,
You'll say Wahoo!
Casey VerHey

The Ping Pong Tournaments

The week of January seven we played both games and tournaments of ping-pong at school because it was icy outside. We started out with games of ping-pong so we could practice. Later that day we started a tournament. We all thought we would lose, but the seventh and eighth graders did not. Makenna won with Nickolas with her in the championship. The next day

we started another tournament. This time Lucas beat Makenna in the championship. The day after that we played another tournament and Nickolas beat Lucas in the championship. Each champion had to play against Mr. Hunter. Each time the seventh and eighth graders won. Later that day we started another tournament, but we played this one differently. First the fourth and fifth graders had to play a little tournament. The winner of that tournament had to play against Makenna. The winner of that had to play against the winner of Lucas and Nickolas. This time it was Makenna and Lucas in the championship. The winner of that was Makenna. Even though any of the fourth and fifth graders did not win, we all had fun.

Isaiah Brands

A Klondike Adventure Wham! 2019

Dear parents and students,

Five years ago we began *WHAM!* at Free Christian School. Many of you thought it was a great success and encouraged us to continue to hold it. So here we go. We hope that this reading incentive program will encourage all of our readers but especially our reluctant ones to spend more time with written words.

Experts have told us that all readers should read at least 15 minutes a day just to maintain their reading level.

Some need more in order to improve. Some want more in order to enjoy the stories that can be found in those written words. It has been my experience with a program such as WHAM! that this can happen.

This takes diligence. It takes diligence on the students' part so that they put the time and effort into reading. Sometimes they have to carve time out of some other activity. It takes diligence on the part of parents to maybe read to our younger students, oversee all the readers in your household, and sign and make sure the students have a reading slip as they walk out of the door on Monday morning. It also takes diligence on the teachers' part to maintain the program and provide events to encourage our students. Even though this is our fourth year of the program, there probably will still be bugs. Please bear with us.

Each Monday the students will bring home a slip that will need to be filled out. Older students can do this themselves; younger students will need help. The following Monday these slips will need to be returned to school so that we can record the minutes. On Monday they will use those minutes to "shop" in the WHAM! Store. If they fail to bring the slips back to school, they should do so the next day. Without the slip they will be

unable to use the store; however, the minutes will accumulate and they can use them the next week. Also all minutes will count toward our school goal. We need the slips, late or not if we are going to make our goal.

Throughout the month at noon hours there will be some activities for the students. As kindergarteners are only here on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, those will be the days for such activities. If we make our 25,000-minute goal, we are planning an all school activity. As part of *WHAM!* the students will be given clues to figure out what we are going to do.

Faculty of Free Christian School

From the Board

As a mandate from the state we have to publically proclaim that the grounds and building of Free Christian School are a no-smoking area. The board has approved a policy stating this and will be hanging signs in various places proclaiming this. You can obtain a copy of the policy from the school board secretary. Please help us obey those whom God has placed in authority over us by obey this policy. Thank you.