

faithfulness in this important endeavor.

"Except Jehovah build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except Jehovah keep the city, the watchmen waketh but in vain." Psalm 127:1.



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## *Mini Course '75 and . . . . .*

by Mr. Calvin Kalsbeek

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Had you wandered into the Protestant Reformed Seminary Building on August 8, 9, 11 or 12, you might have been surprised to see Protestant Reformed teachers from as far away as Loveland, Colorado or as near as Grand Rapids, Michigan. If you had taken time to look the crowd over carefully, you might have been further surprised to see Protestant Reformed ministers and other visitors from near and far.

It would be natural to wonder about the why and wherefore of such a

diversified gathering, so I'll tell you: they came to be fed. Now you and I both know that people will travel rather great distances to go to their favorite restaurant but not hundreds or thousands of miles! Yet some of these people did, and I'm sure they didn't return home disappointed.

Actually, those present during all four of the above mentioned dates received five scrumptious meals. I believe, however, that most of us would still think it a little absurd to travel such distances for even five meals! A peek at the menu might be the key to understanding the motivation for such seemingly inappropriate behavior.

### **Mini-Course '75:**

Sponsor: Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies

Instructor: Rev. David Engelsma

### **Lecture titles and tid-bits:**

1. The Covenantal Basis of Reformed Christian Education (Aug. 8)
  - The root of the entire endeavor: God's Covenant with believers and their children.
  - An examination of other bases of Christian education, e.g. evangelism, dissatisfaction with public schools, social reform, etc.
2. Scripture in the School (Aug. 9, 8 A.M.)
  - The basic place of Scripture is not that of a formal subject but of a foundation of every subject.
  - Is the Word of God the authority for those in the camp of the AACCS?

3. Reformed Education and Culture (Aug. 9, 10 A.M.)
  - Reformed Education is not synthesizing (common grace) nor anabaptistic (world-flight).
  - Why pay high tuition costs when vocational training might better prepare our children for jobs at much less cost?
4. The Goal of Christian Education (Aug. 12)
  - A mature man or woman of God who lives in this life as God's friend servant using all his abilities to this end.

You'll agree, I'm sure, that if ever there were a case for gluttony this was it; and that without the usual resulting upset stomach. For this there is good reason: the food prepared by the chef was founded on the perfect Word of God. Can you ever get too much of that? If you have an appetite for that kind of food, a feast awaits you following this article. The main course: "The Protestant Reformed teacher." Taste it. Digest it. Be strengthened. Grow.

And that was mini-course '75. In case you're wondering, I wrote about it to familiarize our readers with the kinds of things which the Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies promotes. This was but one of many treats made available to Protestant Reformed teachers by the Federation. Other Federation sponsored activities and projects include:

1. Mini-Course '74 led by Prof. Herman Hanko in which the teachers received instruction concerning "Biblical Psychology."
2. Various workshops in which teachers worked together during the summer; the concrete results of which are recorded in manuals with these titles: "Music Curriculum Guide," "A Writing Program for the Covenant Child," and "Biblical Perspectives in the Social Sciences."
3. The production of a Bible curricu-

lum by Mrs. H.C. Hoeksema.

4. "Seminars" in which ministers and teachers wrote and discussed papers on

teachers wrote and discussed papers on various topics pertinent to Covenant instruction.

That's quite a record for an organization of which, it seems, so little is heard. From what we've seen of its activities, we shouldn't be too surprised to learn that its primary purpose is to "seek ways and means for a more thorough training of teachers and prospective teachers in Christian principles." \*

I'm sure that as long as this purpose remains vivid in our minds many more feasts await Protestant Reformed parents and teachers in the future. And, I'm positive that if the Federation remains true to this purpose, it will not suffer for the lack of financial as well as prayerful support by our covenant parents and teachers. It is my prayer that this means may continue to be used to the end that our children be brought up in the fear of the Lord. Shall we make that, our prayer?

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\*For a detailed history of the Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies, please read pages 111 through 113 of **God's Covenant Faithfulness** edited by Gertrude Hoeksema.