

discipline are, and Who God is. At this point, the church's work is crucial: to preach to home and school alike the mind and will of Jesus Christ. The unity of our homes and schools in the truth is a rare thing today - pray God that we not lose it!

It is also implied that the teacher must be awe-struck with his calling, just as the parent is. He should feel that he would not accept such a position for a million dollars and that he could not leave it for two million. Having this attitude, he will depend on God for the ability to do the work and will pray for the grace constantly. He will also be diligent. He will give it all he has. If ever there were a calling that warranted sacrifice and effort beyond the call of bare duty, teaching covenant children is this calling.

Finally, teachers are to be highly honored. They should be paid well. They should be respected. Luther said it in his inimitable way:

"I will simply say briefly that a diligent and upright schoolmaster or teacher, or anyone who faithfully trains and teaches boys (and girls! -

DE), can never be adequately rewarded or repaid with any amount of money, as even the heathen Aristotle says. Nevertheless, this work is as shamefully despised among us as if it amounted to nothing at all. And still we call ourselves Christians! If I could leave the preaching office and my other duties, or had to do so, there is no other office I would rather have than that of schoolmaster or teacher of Boys; for I know that next to that of preaching, this is the best, greatest, and most useful office there is. Indeed, I scarcely know which of the two is the better. For it is hard to make old dogs obedient and old rascals pious; yet that is the work at which the preacher must labor, and often in vain. Young saplings are more easily bent and trained, even though some may break in the process. It surely has to be one of the supreme virtues on earth faithfully to train other people's children..." (Luther's Works, Vol. 46, pp. 252,253)

P O T P O U R R I

Teachers and parents are invited to contribute short, helpful articles to this section of *Perspectives*. Mr. Roland Petersen, principal of Covenant Christian High School and chairman of the music department, writes a brief article of advice for elementary teachers.

Elementary teachers, are you bothered by boys who seemingly can't sing and whose efforts usually consist of two or three notes in the vicinity of middle c or lower? Bear in mind that these boys, barring the possibility of some rather rare functional hearing disorders, should have perfectly good soprano voices, voices that would add much to your singing in the classroom. Instead of labelling them "monotones" (In twenty-eight years of choral work I've never found a genuine monotone!!) and placing them in musical limbo until their voices breaks, why not spend some time helping them find their real voice. Remember that the boy soprano voice is probably the most beautiful of all!

A possible solution to some, if not all of your problems, is the following two-step approach. First, eliminate the piano. Yes, work **without** the piano!!!! You may use a pitch-pipe if necessary, but rely on your voice as the principal instrument. The second step is to pitch the songs down so that the lowest note is in the vicinity of a-flat below middle c. Most youngsters can sing this low without straining. These two steps often will be sufficient; a few may require some personal attention, but the non-singers should begin to sing. After they have gained some confidence the pitch can gradually be raised to a normal level. Bear in mind that certain songs in The Psalter are pitched too high to begin with and can well afford to be sung in a lower key.

The above is written in the assumption that you are a woman. If you aren't, then you'd better start cultivating your falsetto. Most men have a perfectly good, but seldom used, high falsetto voice that can sing easily in the mezzo-soprano range. The recent revival of the **counter-tenor** voice is proof of the fact. A great many male altos possess normal baritone voices. A little work on your falsetto can work wonders in your classroom singing...!

If you have any questions I'll be glad to consider them. Just write or call at the high school.

by Roland Petersen

The Theological Basis For Teaching Writing

by James Huizinga

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

I John 1:3

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