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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

by Agatha Lubbers, editor-in-chief

The editors of *Perspectives* are pleased to report that the initial response to the journal has been encouraging. One reader wrote as follows: "I admire your ambition and zeal as laborers for Covenant education in undertaking another branch of learning and encouragement for teachers, parents, and friends through the pages of *Perspectives in Covenant Education*. May this labor also be blessed to the glory of our Covenant God."

Another reader wrote the following: "You are to be commended for beginning what promises to be a very worthwhile publication in our circles. May God bless you in this work. Under His blessing our schools, teachers, and parents will be strengthened. And the glory will be God's."

We are encouraged by these initial responses. In hope therefore we publish this second edition of the journal. May God use it for the development of the Reformed truths concerning the education of Covenant youth.

The P.R.T.I. has made the following

changes. Mr. Jon Huisken, who served a one year term, has been replaced on the editorial staff by Dr. Roderick Kreuzer. Dr. Kreuzer teaches mathematics and science at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. He has been appointed to a three-year term.

Miss Winifred Koole, another member of the faculty of Hope P.R.C.S., has been appointed to the position of business manager of *Perspectives*. She will handle all correspondence concerning subscriptions to the journal.

We also express appreciation to Mr. Jon Huisken for his willingness to serve and assist in this pilot venture of publishing a journal.

Although I have a few unpublished manuscripts on hand in my files, there is a continued need for manuscripts. They should be type-written and error-free, if at all possible. Send your manuscripts to the editorial office. Parents are also urged to write or respond to an article in the journal.

has been encouraging, we are somewhat disappointed by the number of people who have not subscribed to the magazine and could. We wish to express our appreciation to those who have subscribed and have so generously given gifts to make the continued publication of the journal a possibility. All current subscribers can use the attached envelope to renew their subscription for the 1976-1977 publishing year. If you know someone who has not subscribed, will you encourage him to

subscriber but are reading the magazine, won't you send in your subscription today?

Because this journal is intended to help teachers, parents, and friends of Covenant education, the editors wish to make the articles as pertinent as possible. If you have any suggestions for the improvement of the journal, we solicit your comments and suggestions.

PARENTAL EDUCATION

by Dr. Dwight Monsma

Dr. Monsma is a past president of the Board of Covenant C.H.S. He has also taught at one time at Adams Street P.R.C. School. He practices dentistry in Grand Rapids.

This phrase, Parental Education, is used by all of us to describe our system of Christian education. When asked by outsiders to give a reason for sending our children to our own schools, we answer that we feel that their education and rearing is our responsibility and not that of the state. We all feel this so strongly that we are willing to spend thousands of dollars each year to maintain schools for our children...and not only for our own children, but also for the children of our Christian brothers. Protestant Reformed people have also described their schools as Covenantal schools which reinforces the idea of Christians rearing their children to become mature Christians. Although the above statements are true, and we accept them as the basis of our educational system, many times we violate the principles implicit in such a system.

In the October, 1975 issue of *Perspectives*, Rev. David Engelsma spoke very

clearly about many of these principles. He directed his words primarily to our teachers, but each of us would profit by re-reading his article. I will quote from his words later in this paper to emphasize certain points that he made so well. While he described the Christian teacher, he also involved the Christian parent, the board and the church. I intend to examine the subject of Parental Education as it applies to parents, students, the school society and the board. However, of necessity, some of this will involve teachers, administrators and the church.

Definition of Parental Education

To reduce parental education to its simplest terms: it is the instruction of children by their own Christian parents. Parents of all ages the world over have done this every moment that they have spent with their children. Christian parents especially are called to instruct their children in the home by word and example. We must do this every waking hour to fulfill our God given calling.

But I want to focus our attention on the area of Parental Education that we call SCHOOL. Often school is referred to as