

the **Banner** *of Truth*

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The Official Periodical
of the Netherlands Reformed
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Problems in Education

For our young readers...

Of the Creation and Fall of Man
and His Incapacity to Perform
What Is Truly Good

Opportunity



"For Thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness." PSALM 18:28



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Meditation

New Year's Eve—Staying Behind

Rev. J. den Hoed, Lynden, WA

Genesis 32:24-28

Our thoughts go out to a man named Jacob. We read that he stayed behind at the brook Jabbok. All his possessions, his wives, children, and cattle have crossed the brook. Why is he remaining behind? He is afraid, and if you ask why he is afraid, he is thinking back to what has happened twenty years ago in his life. At that time, he had deceived his blind father and had lied to him. He had also deceived his brother and stolen from him. Now he sent gifts unto his brother to try to make things right with him. There is more—it is not right between him and the Lord. That is why he remains behind. With that guilt he cannot step across the brook and travel farther upon the way to the land of his fathers.

Readers, is there a reason to be afraid on New Year's Eve? No, I do not mean because the world has become such a difficult place—a place where there are so many questions which no longer have answers. All these concerns, and many more, are because of our sins. Are there also people who are afraid because it is not right between God and their soul? People who must stay behind with all of their sin and the burden of guilt? Jacob stayed behind and wrestled with a righteous God. It is true, he could look back upon a Bethel in his life—a time when the Lord came over and the promises of God were dear to his soul—still his burden of guilt had never been taken away. What a privilege when one may look back and see where the Lord has become too strong for him—when in such a dark night one may hear, “I am with thee in all places whither thou goest.” Why, then, must such a one stay behind when all family and friends so easily step across the border from the old into the New Year? Why is there so much fear in his heart? It is because of the breach that is still standing open. He misses the Healer of the breach; he misses the blood pressed in upon his heart. He misses that robe of righteousness to cover him in the sight of a holy God.

We read that when Jacob was all alone at the brook, he could not cross. While he was there, One came who wrestled with him throughout the lonely, dark night. What a wonder that is in the life of God's children when the Lord comes into their heart and they may wrestle with God. What is the reason that Jacob is wrestling with that glorious Holiness who had come down from heaven? We hear God say, “Let Me go, for the day breaketh.”

The answer comes from a man who speaks with a broken, humbled heart, “I will not let thee go, except Thou

bless me.” That is where it lies with Jacob. Nothing else matters anymore—not his family on the other side of the brook or his brother Esau coming with his men; it all fades to the background. He needs the Lord to give him a blessing for his soul.

Dear reader, what do you desire? Fifty-two weeks have quickly gone by, and it is New Year's Eve. The Lord has been good to us. We continue to have a place around His blessed Word. What are your desires now that another year has come to an end? Are there desires that are known in heaven because God has awakened them? Oh, then, cling to the One who alone can satisfy those desires and awaken in your heart a hope with which you may cross the border from the old year into the New Year. People of the Lord, do you have to stay behind? No, you need not deny what the Lord has done and given in the past. There is a Bethel in your life, but that has all been so long ago, and your heart is longing for the application of His promise to your heart. Perhaps you must say, “Oh, Lord, dost Thou not know that I am all alone here and that I cannot pass from the old into the new?” Oh, He, the One for whom your heart is longing, will certainly come, and then you may take hold of Him saying, “I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.” You may tell Him that there is nothing in the entire world that you desire other than that He knows of you.

Jacob may hear the Lord speak: “What is your name?” Oh, what a moment when in the dark night one may tell the Lord, “I am Jacob, a deceiver, a sinful man, a man who has ruined everything, and who will always ruin everything.” For such a man, it is now time for the Lord to speak: “You are no longer Jacob, for I have found a ransom for you. No more Jacob because there is a Saviour whose blood and righteousness cleanses and clothes such a one.” In the life of God's dear children, Bethel always yearns for that blood. How privileged such a child of God is when he may hear in that dark night out of the mouth of Him, “Thy name shall be no more called Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.” Now Jacob can let the Lord go, for now he may know that he is forever kept in the Father heart of his God.

You are greatly privileged who one day may cross the border from time into eternity with that blood applied to your heart and when there may be a hunger for that blood in your heart. Stay behind, and when He comes to take hold of you, tell that merciful, good-doing God that you desire to hear Him say, “I have bought thee with the price of My blood.” □

In the Beginning

Rev. A. Vergunst (1926-1981)

(Taken from *The Banner of Truth*, January 2001 issue)

“And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

A new year has just begun. What will this year bring us? All events that are uncertain now will soon become known. However, also in this year, sorrow, grief, and plagues will be the portion of us as human beings.

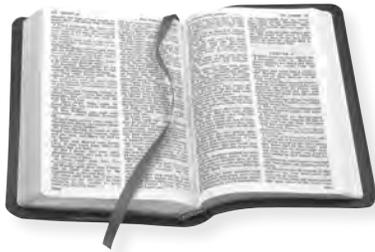
Has it always been this way? Was this world created to be a spectacle of so much misery and so many temptations? Let God’s Word direct us to another beginning, a beginning of which we can read that it was very good. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). It was not because of God’s work that there is so much distress in this world, for His work was perfect. Sin destroyed God’s superb work of creation and made everything come under the curse, so that, because of sin, the whole Creation groans under the burden of God’s anger and displeasure.

It is the beginning of a new year, which is numbered according to Christ’s coming on earth. That fact is connected to the beginning which God once gave to the world. God did not want to relinquish His Creation to sin and the curse forever. He will, according to His good pleasure,

look in mercy at lost ones and at a lost world, so that His Church is gathered. A new heaven and earth will be prepared for her where it will be seen that all that God has made is very good.

God is still busy performing that work, and this work will also continue in this year. This year will also be “the year of our Lord.” There are many uncertainties, temptations, difficulties, anxieties, and other troubles, but there is also expectation when we look at those words, “the year of our Lord,” and when we may know that our times are in the hand of Him who is at God’s right hand, executing God’s good pleasure. God is working through the work of His Son to make good again that which He in the beginning made very good, for mercy will renew what sin ruined.

Is there also a new beginning for you? Not the beginning of a new year or of all sorts of good intentions, but the new beginning of God’s grace. You, too, were once created very good, but a new beginning must be made. That is not your beginning again, but it is God’s beginning in you. There is an “in the beginning” in Genesis 1, but there is also an “in the beginning” under a new dispensation. □



Bible Study

The Life of Isaac (10)

Rev. C. Vogelaar, Clifton, NJ

Based on Genesis 27

The wilderness journey of Isaac is an illustration of the way in which the Lord leads His people. He leads them from place to place, but at the well Shebah, Isaac experienced that the Lord had given him a place where there was peace with his enemies; God gave him a token of His covenant faithfulness. God never lies but certainly fulfills what He has spoken. After this, we do not read of Isaac and his wife Rebekah except that they were grieved when Esau, their oldest son, took to wife a woman of the Hittites, “Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah” (Genesis 26:35). Isaac’s journey continues but Scripture does not mention what happened until Isaac had become old and realized that the time of departure would probably come soon. God’s children also die; death is the last enemy.

Partiality

It was about forty years after the blessings at Shebah; Isaac and Rebekah had received two children, Esau and Jacob, and we read of Isaac that he loved Esau, “And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob” (Genesis 25:28). God had forewarned that the elder should serve the younger. However, Isaac’s intents were different. He went about to bless Esau. We can see in Isaac’s life that he, after all God’s gracious benefits, had grown spiritually weak. It was also true in his life that the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and so we see Isaac planning according to the desires of his flesh. There is a danger, also for God’s children, that they become content with what they have experienced and that they begin to rest on grace received. Then their prayers become more formal, and the inner room is not visited so often to call upon the Lord for

His help and guidance. The times of distress when the strife was so heavy were not easy for them, as it was also not easy for Isaac to have to travel from place to place. However, in those times, they need the Lord's keeping and leading, and under God's blessing, troubles may bring them closer to Him.

Yet, there are also times when everything becomes quiet and seems peaceful, but then there is an increasing danger that the life of storming the throne of grace begins to languish, and that a certain contentment with God's benefits and slothfulness may fill the heart. Then there is resting without pleading, and although what God has planted in the heart will not die, the life of grace is not blossoming. Perhaps so it was with Isaac.

There are two infirmities in Isaac's character which are evident here. First, there was a disposition to gratify his desire for a particular kind of food, savory meat, and secondly, he had a partiality for his son Esau. Esau's marriage had grieved Isaac and Rebekah. It must have been clear to Isaac that Esau did not fear the Lord and that his life was with the world. How that should have been a burden to Isaac and a source of grief. Isaac must have known what the Lord had said to Rebekah, "The elder shall serve the younger." He knew whom God had chosen, yet, we see that his carnal desires and his favoring Esau, led him to intend to give the birthright blessing to Esau. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we need to be delivered from our carnal desires and preferences. Also, for this old pilgrim, it should have been his place to deny himself, to fall on God's side, and to agree with His good pleasure. Was he not himself a child of God's grace and miraculous power? Was not his life a testimony that the Lord had made a distinction where by nature there is none? Isaac's prayer should have been, "Make me Thy will to do." However, this does not make Rebekah innocent when she schemes to deceive her husband. Her desire that Jacob would receive the blessing was good, but the means she used were unlawful.

Deceived

Rebekah should have trusted the Lord to bring to nothing the plans of her husband, but she plotted against him and taught her son to deceive him. Jacob complied with his mother's plan and by doing this, he brings a heavy guilt upon himself. What he sows, he will reap later in his life. The deceiver, Jacob, will be deceived by Laban when he is in Padan Aram. This is what he did: he acted as if he were Esau; he told lies to his father, and he even dared to bring the name of the Lord into his story after his father inquired how he had found the venison so quickly, "And he said, because the LORD thy God brought it to me" (Genesis 27:20b). Thus, it often goes when we begin to walk the wrong way—from bad to worse. Sin is like walking on a slippery path, and if the Lord does not stop even His children, they would ruin everything. However, God's faithfulness will not allow this.

Isaac blessed Jacob, as we read in verses 28 and 29, "Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: Let people

serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be everyone that curseth, and blessed be he that blesseth thee."

Then Esau came in from his hunting. How terrifying it was to Isaac when he discovered that he had been deceived by Jacob. Esau also had made savory meat and brought it unto his father, and when Isaac asked him, "Who art thou?" he said, "I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau." We read in verse 33, "And Isaac trembled very exceedingly."

Faith

Horror was awakened in the soul of the old father. He now fully realized that he had tried to go against the expressed will of the Lord. God had overruled his wrongdoing, and Isaac bowed in self-judgment and "trembled very exceedingly." He knew now that God had been securing what He had declared before the sons were born.

We read in Hebrews 11:20, "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come." It may be a surprise to find Isaac also mentioned among the heroes of faith. You may wonder, where do we see his faith? It may appear incomprehensible. However, God the Holy Spirit declares it. The Bible does not cover the sin of Isaac. God sees and also hates the sins of His people. Scripture is so honest in recording the actions of God's people, and it is so evident that they are not saved because of their good deeds. It is grace alone that has kept and corrected them. Carnal love and human affections may have such a large place in the hearts of God's people, and they are the reason that God's good pleasure may be concealed and that spiritual darkness is experienced. It is a difficult lesson; dying to flesh and blood is practiced too seldom—flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of heaven.

In spite of all his failures, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau by faith. His pronouncing the blessing was an evidence of firm faith in the promises of God. Isaac might have been mistaken in the object of the promise; it was not Esau, but by faith Isaac embraced the promises themselves. God would be the God of His seed, and all the families of the earth would be blessed in that seed. It is so clear that Isaac believed God's promise; otherwise, he would never have spoken the blessing that made Jacob a lord over his brother. Isaac, by faith, clung to God's promise. Christ would come and in Him all families of the earth will be blessed. What a blessing it is if we may do so even when the fulfilling of them goes through impossible ways. It is a lesson to fall outside of it and see that God's counsel will stand; He will do all His pleasure. That will also be the boast of the Church of God when they may arrive safely in glory. It is, "Through Thee, through Thee alone, for Thy eternal good pleasure's sake." May such a delight in God's work alone be known by young and old. For this good pleasure those who are saved and kept by a mighty and faithful Saviour will honor and glorify Him. □

(To be continued)

From the Editor of *The Banner of Truth*
2020

Rev. J. den Hoed, Lynden, WA

Dear Readers,

It is by the grace of God that we are enabled to come to the end of the year 2019 and begin a new year. It is a privilege to wish you God's indispensable blessing for the time that lies before us. May the Lord keep and spare us for one another and, above all, bless His Word in our midst so that sinners will be called out of darkness and be added to those who are traveling to that eternal city. May the strength of the Lord be experienced upon that journey.

As we look about us, we see a world transgressing against God's holy Word and ordinances. "Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto My words, nor to My law, but rejected it" (Jeremiah 6:19). When we look amongst us, a people who may yet come under the preaching of God's Word, then there is great concern. World conformity is entering into our homes and lives at an alarming rate and, step by step, is also entering our churches. The complaint is heard that the Lord holds His hand so still. Is it not because broken hearts and contrite spirits are so missing among us?

Oh, that the Lord in the New Year may give true conversions amongst us—that there may be a growing

in the life of grace and the knowledge of that only Saviour, Jesus Christ. May we learn the desire of David, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61:2b). Perhaps, we may bring all of these thoughts together, dear reader, by saying, "Lord, in this new year wilt Thou yet grant a favor and preserve Thy Word among us." May He bless also our young people with the knowledge of the truth and bind them to the aforesaid doctrine. The Lord grant that our children may grow on in the midst of our families and that the Lord will bless His Word unto their hearts.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our editorial staff a blessed New Year. It is our hope and prayer that the Lord may grant them health and strength to perform the labors which they so willingly perform in formulating *The Banner of Truth* from month to month. It is our wish for them that the Lord may give them a taste of what they may handle.

Dear reader, we do not deserve anything; we have forfeited all. May the God of all grace lay a forfeited prayer in our hearts—Lord, prepare us ever more to meet Thee in righteousness—for when that is the case, regardless of how it will go in the New Year, all may be well.



From Our Inheritance

Hope for the Church

Rev. G.H. Kersten (1882-1948)

(Taken from *The Night Visions of Zechariah*, NRC Book & Publishing, 1995)

"Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain" (Zechariah 8:3).

With great earnestness and in the name of the Lord, Zechariah showed the people the abominable sins of which they were guilty and to which they were blind. God's holy justice had made itself manifest. Their grievous

downfall and long captivity came about because of sin. The Lord was displeased with the hypocritical conduct of the people who were weary of weeping and fasting. Therefore, the Lord's accusation against these people was very sharp—they must lose all hope. However, the Lord does not uncover sin to bring His people to despair; on the contrary, He wants to lead His people to redemption and grace which are in Christ. Therefore, the faithful Jehovah revealed the salvation He had prepared for the convinced

and contrite and promised again to dwell among the people in favor. Then their mournful fasting would change into joy.

Here we have the distinguishing mark of saving conviction, differing from remorse in the conscience for sin. That remorse can be very intense and cause hellish pains. I have often met people who were in very great distress because of being strongly condemned by their conscience. I could mention the name of those who had rest neither day nor night, even to the extent of rubbing the skin from their hands and feet. I remember being called to be with people who were afraid to go to bed at night, or to homes where the wife was walking about with uncombed hair and where the husband had fled from the house. They asked me to pray to the Lord for them. I have known people who reformed their lifestyles, faithfully attended church, and were touched by every sermon they heard. If nothing more befell them, and their consciences had been quieted a bit, they would soon return to the world—yes, their lives would become worse than before. They lacked the quickening ministry of the Holy Spirit. In their convictions there was distress and fear, remorse and hardness, but humiliation and tenderheartedness were not found in them. A living hope was lacking. That salvation which God proclaims to His people by way of His promises, remained hidden for them.

That constitutes the difference between common convictions and saving convictions. Although many fears may beset God's people, and even though their sins cause them to cry out, "It is lost forever," yet the Lord does not leave them without hope. He causes them to surrender to His justice and to acknowledge that they have made themselves worthy of death. However, in that acknowledgment there will be true humiliation and contrition. Oh, do take notice! Those with common convictions become hardened; they cannot uprightly and heartily make supplication to their Judge. They say with Cain, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." They do not find a place of repentance. When the Lord convicts His people, however, they come with the words of condemnation about their necks, and say with Esther, "If I perish, I perish." They take their refuge in God even though He cannot but hate sin and must condemn the sinner. However, the explanation for this sweet, wonderful, effectual conviction of sin is as follows: The Lord draws them with the cords of a man, with bands of love. He reproveth of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, but He also works a living hope. He who acts only out of fear for hell should beware, for he is in great danger.

God causes His people to come with weeping and supplication. Even if they must spend their nights lamenting, there is more joy in their weeping than in all of the pleasures of the world. Those who are truly uncovered to

themselves do not know anyone who is a greater sinner than they themselves, and they are amazed that they are still in the day of grace. God's Word is opened to them. Oh, how comforting are the invitations. How precious are the promises which cause their hearts to melt like wax. The blessedness of the service and people of God is held before them. With tears in their eyes, they often observe the children of God, a people reconciled with God. All of this draws them and moves them to seek the Lord. God does not convince His people in order to leave them in their misery but to deliver them out of it. The Lord says, "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her" (Hosea 2:14).

Zechariah now spoke comfortably to the upright people who were grieving because of their sins. It was because of their sins that Jacob's posterity had been carried away to Babylon. The enemy had laid the city and the temple in ruin. In all this God's wrath against a guilty people was evident—God had swept them away. Verse 2: "Thus saith the LORD of

hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury."

God's justice cannot leave sin unpunished. He is very angry with their iniquity, and that becomes the distressing experience of God's people. From thence come the chastisements for sin. After David's sin was pardoned and the Lord had taken away his guilt, he bowed deeply under God's chastising hand. Even in his old age his sins of youth oppressed him. Life is so

serious. God's attributes are perfect and His righteousness endures forever. In the personal life of His people, the Lord can seem so far away. It sometimes seems as though He has forsaken them. Oh, how distressing are the times when it seems to His children as though they will never see their Father's countenance! Then the enemy can do as he pleases. "...The floods of ungodly men made me afraid...the snares of death prevented me" (Psalm 18:4b&5b). "Deep calleth unto deep" (Psalm 42:7a). It seems as if the Lord neither sees nor notices it.

In general, God is far from His Church when times are dark. What sad times we are experiencing. The Church is become as a cottage in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. The enemy has overpowered her. Lies and deceit are in the midst of her. And the Lord is standing afar off. It seems as if He is not concerned, although He has not entirely forsaken us. Our heart is greatly troubled when we reflect upon the Church. Does not the Lord take notice? Is there then no hope for the Church of God, or are the words of verse three also applicable to her? "Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain."

God causes His people to come with weeping and supplication. Even if they must spend their nights lamenting, there is more joy in their weeping than in all of the pleasures of the world. Those who are truly uncovered to themselves do not know anyone who is a greater sinner than they themselves, and they are amazed that they are still in the day of grace.

Formerly, the Lord dwelt in the midst of Jerusalem; *there* was the blood of atonement; *there* He showed His favor and grace; yes, there He caused His people to enter the sanctuary and have communion with Him. Jerusalem was the city of the Great King. Justice abounded there; righteousness lodged in its borders. However, the faithful city had become a harlot. The whole head was sick and the whole heart faint. “From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment” (Isaiah 1:6). Oh, sad decline of Zion! They were to be blamed for all this.

On the other hand, only the grace and mercy of God can change the circumstances. The Church of God persevered only by grace, and the Lord desired to show that free grace to Jerusalem. He will return to Zion and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then all sin and deceit will be laid low. If the Lord would turn to His Church, it would again become a city of truth and a mountain of the LORD of hosts, the holy mountain. Such was true for the Church in former days, and only grace is able to make it so again.

Oh, that God’s people might truly feel their need and supplicate for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Oh, that the

dwelling places of His people would be rebuilt out of the dust and that the Church would again be one, built upon the firm foundation of the apostles and prophets, of which Christ is the chief cornerstone. Oh, that the Lord would return, and that His dwelling among us would become visible in the reconciliation of sin and in the cleansing of iniquities. It is only His work that can save us. Oh, that this would be a matter of concern for the people of God. The deadness of the Church consists in her being far from the Lord. Oh, that God’s favor and grace would be upon her, and that the faithful Jehovah would visit His people. May He neither harden their hearts nor cause them to depart from His ways. May they experience the power of the blood of the Lamb, and may there be a fleeing to Christ by faith and an entering into the inner sanctuary to be near unto the Lord. Who will deny that we are to be blamed for living so far from God? Still, if the solution depended on us, it would be a lost case. We would wander away from God forever.

May the faithful Jehovah seek those that do not seek Him. May He make His people faithful—a city of truth, a holy mountain—so that the Lord may be glorified again in the hearts of His elect. □

Avoiding Strife

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

“...be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you” (2 Corinthians 13:11b).

As you seek the prosperity of this society, it is of vast importance that you should avoid contention. A contentious people will be a miserable people. The contentions that have been among you since I was your pastor have been one of the greatest burdens I have labored under in the course of my ministry—not only the contentions with me but those with one another. Contention, heat of spirit, evil speaking, and things of like nature, are directly contrary to the spirit of Christianity and, in a peculiar manner do tend to drive away God’s Spirit from a people and render all means of grace ineffectual, as well as destroy a people’s outward comfort and welfare.

Let me, therefore, earnestly exhort you as you would seek your own future good to hereafter watch for a

contentious spirit (1 Peter 3:10&11). I would particularly advise those that have adhered to me in the late controversy to watch over your spirits and avoid all bitterness toward others. However wrong you think others may have been, maintain with great diligence and watchfulness a Christian meekness and gentleness of spirit; labor, in this respect, to excel those who are of a contrary part. This will be the best victory, for “he that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city.” Let nothing be done through strife or deceit. Indulge no revengeful spirit in any case but watch and pray against it; and, by all means in your power, seek the prosperity of this town. Never think you behave yourselves as becomes Christians except when you sincerely, sensibly, and fervently love all men, of whatever party or opinion, and whether friendly or unkind, just or injurious, to you or your friends, or to the cause and kingdom of Christ.

—Excerpt from Edwards’ farewell sermon

A Discourse for a Saturday Evening

Augustus Toplady (1740-1778)

(Taken from a course of prayer for each day of the week, suitable to every Christian family)

The Apostle Paul, in the seventh of the Romans, gives an account of his own spiritual experience or what he was in himself and what he was by grace.

In and of himself he acknowledged that he was carnal, sold under sin—a transgressor by nature and practice, no more able to deliver and save himself than a person who is sold as a slave and bound with insoluble chains is able to rise into a state of liberty and independence. Nay, the apostle carries the subject farther still, for though he has lost his freedom, a slave may yet possess many valuable qualities of mind, but the apostle would not allow the thought that he was naturally possessed of any one good quality whatsoever. I know, says he, that in me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth *no good thing*—nothing spiritually good, nothing that could recommend him to the favor of God or even fit or qualify him for grace or glory. He is, indeed, far in denying what God had done for him or from affirming that no good thing had actually been bestowed on him; on the contrary, he thankfully acknowledges the divine goodness and power which had been manifested in his conversion and mentions many good things which the Holy Spirit had wrought in his soul. He expressly declares that he *allowed not*, or approved not, nay, that he hated the evil he at any time committed.

The prince of the apostles, with every true believer, feels and complains of the depravity of sin in the heart. The child of God would be overwhelmed by the deluge of his corrupt affections every moment if the Lord did not take him into His ark and shut him up until the waters subsided. Austin used to say that he did not fear the world and the devil together half so much as he feared himself, and it may be said of every true Christian that in proportion as he advances in the love of God, he will advance in the hatred of himself. If God were to make anyone his own keeper, he would the next moment make shipwreck of faith, love, and obedience altogether, but blessed be His name; we are

put into better hands. Everyone that believeth on the Lord Jesus Christ, everyone that stands by faith, everyone that simply and humbly looks to Him for righteousness and strength, has in Him a tower of defense. A believer stands in Christ like a man in the hollow of a rock; he hears the waves dashing on every side, and he hears the angry winds raging with horrid noise, but he remains unhurt and safe in the midst of all. Just so, the Christian, in every danger and adversity is sheltered by the Lamb and upheld from falling finally. The everlasting arms of Jehovah are spread beneath, around, and above him; the same power that saves him on earth shall enable him to persevere to the end and at last bring him to heaven.

*Praise the Lord, my joyful heart,
With the elders bear thy part;
Stand with them around the throne,
Singing praises to the Son.*

*Strive with them in rapture lost,
Who shall laud the Saviour most;
Join with angels to proclaim
All the mercies of the Lamb.*

*Saviour! I the theme renew
Endless praises are Thy due;
Anthems equal to Thy grace,
Saints and angels cannot raise.*

*I my worthless mite cast in,
Hear the song of heav'n begin:
I the eternal chorus join.
Echoing the love divine.*

*Ever may I worship Thee,
Praise, my lov'd employment be;
Sing the virtues of Thy blood,
Every moment thank my God. ◻*

We all profess that we are bound for heaven, immortality, and glory. Is it any evidence that we really design it if all our thoughts are consumed about the trifles of this world which we must leave behind us, and we have only occasional thoughts of things above?

— John Owen



For Young and Old

God's Free Grace Glorified (4)

Edited by Marinus Nijse

(Uitgeverij Pieters, Oostburg, the Netherlands)

More than once Mina asked her father what the marks of a true desire for God were. Her father would then answer that continued praying was a token of a true desire. This was also relayed by a visiting minister who visited Middleburg and preached there. He had also said that a continual praying to God shall be heard.

Her father handled Mina's questions very carefully out of fear that she would seek anything else outside of Christ as a foundation for her salvation. She could begin to think that her continual praying would be grounds to exist before God.

Mina had an aversion to hypocrisy. It sickened her to see people who produced their tears for others to see. She was also astute in listening and observing if what was spoken about religious matters was real. There were those who wished to be known as a converted man or woman in order to be praised by others. She had an aversion to that. That is why she tried to say her prayers in secret so that no one else would know anything about it. It was only to her mother that she sometimes related something. She also spoke to her girlfriend, but then she would ask her not to tell anyone, for she did not want anyone to consider her a converted girl.

For her father she remained a riddle. She did not speak to him about her hidden wrestling. He only knew what she said and what he heard from her mouth. Sometimes he heard his daughter say, "Oh, Lord, let me not be absorbed in earthly things, for Thou, Lord, will come back upon it." When she had yielded to sin, she would moan greatly; her sins would become guilt to her. It would break her father's heart when he heard her begging unto the Lord.

In November of 1853, when she became eighteen years of age, her suffering increased greatly. She could no longer go to church. That was very difficult, for lately she had such a desire to hear God's Word. The heavier her suffering became, the more she prayed. Her father was asked how it was with the condition of her soul. The minister could not say any more than that she was often in prayer. He dared not say anymore, for he was not sure if hers was a real conversion.

It was only to her mother that Mina spoke about it. She was afraid that she would again begin to serve the world if she would get better. Then God's name would be blasphemed because of her. This shows that she had learned to know herself and how much love these words expressed toward God. For her father it was not so pleasant that she did not reveal anything unto him. Yet, slowly on, the

minister noted that Mina had received a little hope and expectation of God's grace. The more her suffering increased the more she received an insight upon God's mercy.

About the turn of the year, her condition continually worsened. Her constant coughing caused the mucous membranes of her throat and lungs to become more affected. Fevers wasted her body so that day by day she became thinner, and her coughing and vomiting caused ruptures to occur in her lower abdomen. Her body was not without pain either by day or night. Also, internally she was full of grief. The Lord dealt wonderfully with her. Mina had to learn to understand the vanity of this temporal life to which she was so firmly attached.

In spite of the pain and the sorrows there were times that rays of light entered her soul. Before the sun arose, she praised the Lord with the words from Psalm 92:

*It is good to sing Thy praises
And to thank Thee, O Most High,
Showing forth Thy loving-kindness
When the morning lights the sky.
It is good when night is falling
Of Thy faithfulness to tell,
While with sweet, melodious praises
Songs of adoration swell.*

— Psalter 251

Sometimes she was heard to repeat out of Van Lodenstein's *Pleasurable Thoughts*:

*The blest restoring morning light
Sends all the mist from yesterday on flight.
In the clear and breaking sun,
See the precious Bridegroom come
and lift His head above the realm
to be greeted by wildlife, every one.*

*When Thy holy face is now uncovered
and greets us with a dawning sky,
Let then Thy rays of light as showers
Come down upon our darkened souls
As the morning sun, O Lord.
That we, O Lord, may thus know Thee.*

(loosely translated)

When her mother saw her suffering in this way, she could not hold back her tears. She was able to compose herself, but she still had to weep. □

(To be continued)



Questions & Answers

Kneeling

Rev. B. Labee, Veenedaal, the Netherlands

(Translated from *De Saambinder* #2, October 10, 2019)

(Due to time constraints, Rev. Hofman was unable to provide us with his Q&A this month. He hopes to continue next month, D.V.)

A reader asks, “The kneeling before Joseph as vice-regent over Egypt is considered to be quite normal, but the kneeling before Haman is condemned. Why the difference?”

Joseph

We read in God’s holy Word about the honors bestowed upon Joseph after he interpreted Pharaoh’s dreams. Joseph becomes vice-regent, Pharaoh’s ring is placed on his finger, he was arrayed in vestures of fine linen, and a gold chain was placed about his neck. Further in the chapter we read, “And he made him (Joseph) to ride in the second chariot (which ranked only below Pharaoh’s); and they cried before him, Bow the knee; and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt” (Genesis 41:42&43). There is a difference of opinion about the Hebrew word which the translators of the Bible have explained as “kneeling.” It is thought that the servants which Pharaoh sent before Joseph have called it “take heed” or “show respect.” The marginal note in the Dutch Statenvertaling also agrees with this translation. Others translate the word *abrech* (which is translated as kneeling in the Bible) as “tender father”—tender because of his youth, and father because of his office, just like the founders of our countries are called “fathers of our fatherland.” No matter what the case may be, we must see this expression of honor in the light of the customs and norms of Egypt. It has all come upon Joseph and, no doubt, has completely engulfed him.

When the holy Scriptures relates this to us, it does not mean that we should take for granted that it is good or that we should imitate it. We do not have to accept all of these honors, and certainly such kneeling is not normal and acceptable practice among us. The great reformer, John Calvin (1509-1564), writes in his commentary about the bestowing of honors, “We must continually exercise moderation, for although Joseph was not able to direct the act, and he was not allowed to receive the honors without the usual trappings, he was free to take on more honors than those bestowed upon him. For when God’s servants are faced with the choice, there is nothing safer than to

avoid all worldly riches. In cases where it is truly necessary, they may adapt themselves to what is customary, yet they should avoid all idle displays and expressions of vanity. The close reading of this portion of God’s Word shows us that the honoring of Joseph points to the honoring and exaltation of Christ. To Him is given all might in heaven and upon earth. This Jesus is worthy of all of the honor. Matthew Henry writes, “It is the work of His servants to proclaim before Him, ‘Kneel, kiss the Son.’”

Haman

It hardly has to be explained that the honors shown to Haman have a completely different intent. It is true that the ruler of Babylon had ordered it. We read in the book of Esther in the Bible “...for the king had so commanded concerning him, but Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence” (Esther 3:2). We will again let the marginal notes speak, “to show him an unseemly, unlawful Persian honor, which became a matter of conscience for Mordecai to not follow him. This especially as some are of the opinion that Mordecai knew that Haman was an Amalekite.”

Very simply stated, Joseph was overwhelmed by the honors, and he had no interest in arranging them. On the other hand, Haman insisted that all men bow before him, and he did not want to kill only Mordecai but also all of the chosen people of Israel. In the apocryphal books, the appendix to the Book of Esther, we can read of Mordecai’s testimony. “Lord, Thou knowest that I did not do it because of contempt, nor out of pride, nor for desire of honor or praise that I did not bow down before the proud Haman, for I would gladly have kissed his feet to thereby obtain Israel’s salvation, but I did it because I did not want to place the honor of man above the honor of God, and there is no One besides Thee that I want to honor” (Chapter 13:12-14).

When we look beyond Haman, then we see Amalek, yea, in the deepest sense, the seed of the serpent which will not bow before the living God, but that God rules, and He shall show His almighty power. □

Please send your questions to Rev. H. Hofman, 112 Pratt Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001, or hofman@premieronline.net.

Study the shortness of life and the length of eternity.

— Thomas Watson



Reflections

I Must Wait for the Crown

Joseph Tanner (1808-1867)

(Last diary entry, August 29, 1862)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29—In the evening I took to my bed, having gradually become worse, suffering much pain in the afternoon of that day. I can well remember that a deep solemnity rested upon my spirit when I was led to consider that I had made a profession of religion for a number of years and for some years past had stood up in the name of the Lord to preach His gospel. This thought also came into my mind—“Every sickness that ends in death has its beginning, and none but the Lord knows the issue of this. Should it be His high and holy will that this is unto death, what have I for that solemn hour? Nothing but realities will stand that shock. Have I a religion of the right sort, that will do to die by?” My soul was brought earnestly and ardently to cry to the Lord and entreat Him to give me once more “a true token,” if indeed I am so favored as to have oil in the vessel, as well as the lamp and light; also to beg the Lord, if by any means through a deceitful heart and the delusions of Satan I have been in any soul deception, that He would convince me of it and not suffer me to continue any longer in it—when, from the power and effects attending them, the Lord, I believe, spoke these words which dropped upon my soul, “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee:” but the marginal reading came into my mind, “Therefore have I extended lovingkindness unto thee.”

Upon the back of this I had such a sweet, solemn, and blessed sense of the pardon of all my sins come into my soul, which had been sealed in my conscience by the precious blood of Jesus, about seventeen years before; these words sweetly followed, “And to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” I heard its voice in *my* soul proclaiming with power the pardon of all my sins—past, present, and to come—of thought, word, and

deed and original as well as actual sin. These words came also, “The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.” And oh what majesty and power was there in the proclamation of pardon for all my sin! How sweetly flowed into my soul and conscience the peace of God, which truly passeth all understanding! Oh, how I knew experimentally for myself the first verse of the fifth chapter of Romans.

In looking back, I have many times felt the great mercy and tender compassion of the Lord in giving me this blessed visitation to lie down upon as a solemn, solid rest, in so sore and heavy an affliction as it seemed good to His heavenly Majesty to bring upon me. Adored be a covenant God of all grace and mercy, for maintaining the sweet peace then given me during the greater part of my illness so that neither Satan nor unbelief was suffered to molest or assault my soul during my heaviest affliction.

A few nights after I took to my bed when a dear friend was sitting up with me, I had such a solemn view of the Lord Jesus in the heavens that I thought of Stephen and had also some expectation of soon being with Him whom I then beheld—to whom my soul was in a flame of love and before whose holy presence I was much humbled. The palm of victory I felt already to have in my hand which, with all my powers, I waved, in soul-feeling, above and over His sacred head. “I have the victory,” methought, “where is the crown?” and I was, as it were, looking for it. Then came these words into my mind, “Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me in that day.” By this I saw, that, although I had gotten *the victory* through the blood of the Lamb, I must wait for *the crown* until I had put off this mortal tabernacle and entered into that blessed “rest that remaineth for the people of God,” which I felt awaited *me*.

When the race is ended and the play is either won or lost, and ye are in the utmost circle and border of time and shall put your foot within the march of eternity, all the things of your short night-dream shall seem to you like ashes of a blaze of thorns or straw.

— Samuel Rutherford



Guidance

Problems in Education

C.S.L. Janse, Apeldoorn, the Netherlands

Mr. Janse is a frequent contributor to De Saambinder from which this article has been translated. Although he obviously writes with the Dutch schools in mind, there is much in this article which is also applicable to education in North America (Ed).

It is self-evident that the church cannot be indifferent in these days as to where the youth of the congregation receive their education. That is certainly true now that young people spend many years getting their education.

Education is already addressed in the Canons of Dort. In the Netherlands we have had strife regarding control of the schools. In the past, Rev. G.H. Kersten has been a strong proponent in the establishing of our own schools.

For a school to be based upon a Reformed foundation, it is, of course, necessary that there are instructors who endorse this foundation, and who are willing to carry this out in their teaching. It is therefore a very serious matter that Reformed schools have great difficulty these days to fill their vacancies. It is also so necessary to take notice of the fundamental leanings of the applicants.

It is also true that other leading educational institutions are dealing with a great shortage of teaching personnel. Today our young people have multiple opportunities to choose a course of study and occupation. Neither is everyone suited to stand before a class. It is worrisome, however, when the enthusiasm for a career in education is waning. Does not a career in Reformed education provide the opportunity to give young people something of essential value upon their life's pathway? Should that not be felt as a calling? It is not without significance that a number of our ministers were initially working in education. That was true already of Rev. G.H. Kersten, and Rev. N.H. Beversluis.

The involvement of parents

Reformed education ultimately rises or falls with the support of the parents. Parents must be ready to send their children there. That is also true if the school is situated some distance away from home. Upon the face of it, it must be noted, that the readiness is lessening. Parents in all respects will want to seek out what is best for their children, but should not the question of the principal leanings of a school be an important part of the discussion?

If in this day and age one has a more liberal attitude in making this choice, it points to a lessening of the attachment to the Reformed doctrine and Reformed confessions. Have we not promised at baptism to "cause our children to be instructed and brought up in the aforesaid doctrine or

cause them to be instructed therein to the utmost of your power? This is the doctrine which is taught here in this Christian Church to be the true and perfect doctrine of salvation. Ultimately, the makeup of the government is also of great importance. Education is a matter of great importance for society. How much leeway does the government give to a school concerning the Bible, and is government ready to subsidize the schools? Upon this front there is some movement noted.

The victory of the Christian political parties in the days of school strife, now almost a century ago, led to the fact that the rights of the Christian schools were firmly anchored in the Constitution. Several different political parties have in the meantime postulated that this must be removed from the constitution. That is not likely to happen with this cabinet, but after that it is likely.

Socially safe

Many are of the opinion that the schools should accept all students that apply for admission. Subsequently, they must feel themselves to be socially safe. That quickly leads to the fact that the school may not level any disagreement with their ideas and opinions. They should be respected.

Finally, there are the schools themselves. How should they be organized? An extensive discussion recently appeared on this subject in the *Reformatorsch Dagblad* (RD). Our Reformed schools not only have to deal with the government and with public opinion, which becomes ever more critical, but also with our own rank and file. They have to deal with students who sometimes openly protest against certain decisions as was seen some time ago at Zeeland's Calvin College—and with parents who have become more vocal because of the influence of a more heterogeneous society and its opinions and lifestyle. They deal with instructors who modify their opinions, most of the time in the wrong direction. They also frequently have to deal with a diverse rank and file.

Interdenominational

It is true that the school societies which have been established for advanced education have been set up by people from different denominations. At times they represent the entire church but sometimes only a portion of it. In spite of different backgrounds, they were able to agree on the important rules for the school in establishing a unified identity. The need had been impressed upon them. The question is whether future generations still feel themselves bound to these ideas.

Much is happening in the Reformed denominations. Do we still know what the difference is between Reformed and Evangelical or between experientially Reformed and a superficial Reformed covenant theology? If that is not the case, or barely so, then we have lost a great deal.

It is often customary that prayer is offered for our schools in the church services. Considering all these developments, both inside and outside of the school walls, such prayer is more necessary than ever before. □

Godly Rejoicing

Rev. J. van Haaren (1933-1983)

(Translated from *Offers die des avonds branden*)

“And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry” (Luke 15:23&24).

The Church of today has forgotten how to rejoice. Many think that with spiritual life one has to walk around with his head hanging down. Yea, today it is the case, the more complaining, the more converted. This, however, is a terrible mistake. The Apostle Paul says, “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice”

(Philippians 4:4). Moses prayed for this when he said, “O satisfy us early with Thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days” (Psalm 90:14). Do God’s children then always walk around singing? Oh no, more often than not they weep, and they do that in their inner chamber, but when they leave that chamber, they wash themselves, and they do not present a downcast countenance as do the hypocrites. The life of faith is not strengthened in complaining but in the glorying of free grace.



Current Events

Repression of religion continues in China

China continues with its repression of religion, both with Christians and Muslims. It has established a vast detention camp network in Xinjiang which holds Muslims and forces them to renounce religious piety and pledge loyalty to the party. They also are undergoing forced labor in spite of outcries from human rights officials, the United States, and other governments close to them.

—*FreedomUnited.org/news*

Potential government scrutiny of Christian school curriculums in the Netherlands

Christian schools in the Netherlands have for a long time received financial support to establish and maintain their schools. Until recently they have been free of government interference as to how and what they teach their children. This allowance is under increased scrutiny in an increasingly secularized society. Pressure already has been placed on the schools in prescribing what should be covered in their curriculum. Discussions in the government are now underway to analyze how subjects are taught. There is fear that the teachings of Creation, human sexuality, and family life will be placed under increased government scrutiny to see if they conform to what is considered to be the common thoughts in society today.

—*De Saambinder #9 (11/28/19)*

Planned Parenthood Attorneys Make Serious Blunder

Pro-life advocates are on trial in San Francisco, CA, for exposing Planned Parenthood with undercover videos. The United States’ largest abortion provider had an advantage in the trial until their attorneys made a major blunder. They had to allow the undercover video to be shown in the courtroom when they called a defendant to testify. The defendant very clearly explained why she went undercover to expose the potential criminal activity of Planned Parenthood. Everything changed when the jurors saw those videos and also heard the abortionists themselves joking about making money.

—*CBN.com*

Nigerian Government Ineffective in Fighting Lawlessness and Violence

In two successive incidents in Kaduna, Nigeria, in early October, a Baptist woman died, and twelve Christians including church members, school students, and teachers, were kidnapped. This violence is widely attributed to militant Fulani herdsmen of the area who may be affiliated with Boko Haram. No matter what the source of these attacks is, the government in Nigeria is again proving to be completely ineffective in their fight against lawlessness and violence. Attacks on Christians by Boko Haram and these militant herdsmen have increased in 2018 and 2019. Nigeria is number twelve in a list of the fifty countries where it is most dangerous to live as a Christian.

—*BaptistStandard.com*



Timothy FOR THE YOUNG

Of the Creation and Fall of Man and His Incapacity to Perform What Is Truly Good (Article XIV)

Rev. A.M. den Boer (1929-2004)

This article brings us into the field of Anthropology, which is the teaching about the origin, nature, and destiny of man, especially from the perspective of his relationship to God. This subject is spoken of in Articles 14 through 17, starting first with Creation and the Fall, then with original sin, next with eternal election, and lastly with the recovery of fallen man.

We begin with Creation, which is only known from God's Word. It is well known that many people reject this doctrine and believe, instead, the so-called "evolution theory." In this *theory* the various types of plants and animals have their origin in other pre-existing types, and the distinguishable differences are due to modifications in successive generations. Simply expressed, man would have descended from animals. This cannot be proved but is a speculation and theory of Darwin, who thought that the lower forms of life evolved until, ultimately, they came to be man. Such a changeover from one kind to another has never been observed or documented. No examples can be given as proof that man descended from animals.

For many years it was proclaimed with great certainty that a skull of an ape man had been found, but later it proved to be the knee cap of an elephant. The well-known Piltdown skull was the greatest discovery in support of the evolution theory, but it was intentionally imitated. The skull was made of a certain lime or plaster with the addition of a few centimeters of a chimpanzee's jaw. The teeth were filed down to match human teeth and then prepared with potassium to make them look old. Thus, they manufactured the skull of an ape-man who was to have lived five hundred thousand years ago but was in reality less than five hundred years old. I will not cite any more examples since you probably have heard of them, and if you desire to spend the time, you can find them in a number of books.

If you are or have not been fortunate enough to go to one of our Christian schools where the biblical history of Creation is told, perhaps, in a geography class, for example, you may hear various explanations regarding the origin of man, but remember, young people, that God's Word has never failed in the past. The evolution theory is exactly that, only a theory and, we repeat, has no proof at all! It contradicts God's Word not only regarding the origin of man but also in respect to man's unity and place of habitation.

The unity of the human race is clearly proven in God's Word from Acts 17:26a, "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." Some think that people lived before Adam, based on Genesis 6:2 where the sons of God took the daughters of men. Who were the sons of men? The explanation is simple enough when we understand that the sons of God were the sons of Seth who were still keeping the institutions of God. The daughters of man were the daughters of Cain. With these unions, world conformity became greater and the service of the Lord was more and more forgotten.

I know that this does not apply unto our subject of Creation, but today we face the same great danger. The service of the Lord must have the highest place also in our married life. When we must add water to the wine of our religion or make a compromise in our marriage in order to please the other party at the cost of the Lord's commandment, we are in the wrong. Then we love our boyfriend or girlfriend, our wife or our husband more than the Lord. We can never expect to receive a blessing from the Lord when doing so. There are numerous young people who have suffered grief because of this, but it still seems impossible to convince them. I could give you many examples of those who regretted their choice when it was too late. Often such marriages end up in divorce,

and in others people endure a difficult life, sighing daily under the enmity of their partner. It is often heard, "I wish I had listened to my parents." (This is sufficient for the moment, but I hope you take it to heart.)

We have seen that Adam and Eve were the first people who inhabited the earth, and this was about six-thousand years ago. Those who disagree will list a number of arguments against this. They speak of the great difference in skull structure, hair, color, language, morals, customs, etc. I am not able to explain everything scientifically, but we do know that the Lord made a difference in the families of Shem, Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah. It is generally agreed that white people are the descendants of Japheth. The children of Shem are those with a somewhat darker skin who live in countries around the Mediterranean Sea, and the descendants of Ham are people of color. We must realize also that there has been a large amount of intermarrying and of moving about the globe which makes it more difficult to pin point the differences. These, however, are the main divisions.

When we see the great differences in families, however, you can understand that many external changes have also taken place, and we may not forget the influence of climate either. Often that which is small in one part of the world, can be quite large somewhere else. Take for example the poinsettia plant. In Europe it is not more than a foot in height while in the State of California it can become a tree.

This is the result of the influence of the climate.

The differences in language is not difficult to explain because we can find our answer in Genesis 11 which speaks about the confusion of tongues. Therefore, although there are many differences in the human race, we can still defend the unity of it all as descending from Adam and Eve. Even the blood groups found among the human race form a unity.

We cannot determine where Paradise was located, although in the days of Moses it was a place or a country well known. Most theologians think it was in Mesopotamia or Babylon.

Against all the unbelief of the world, we have the unmovable and unchangeable Word of God, which tells us that the Lord is the Creator of heaven and earth, and also of man. Thus, it was stated in the 14th article; "We believe that God created man out of the dust of the earth, and made and formed him after His own image and likeness; good righteous and holy, capable in all things to will, agreeably to the will of God."

We hope to say somewhat more about this next time, the Lord willing.

■ ■ ■ Erratum

One of our readers brought to our attention a mistake in the November issue of *The Banner of Truth*. In the Timothy article "The Written Word of God," it states that Moses lived about twenty-five years after Creation. This is obviously wrong; it should be twenty-five hundred years. We regret this error. (*Ed.*)

A Voice from the Past

Rev. W.C. Lamain (1904-1984)

"Seek Thy servant; for I do not forget Thy commandments" (Psalm 119:176b).

David was a man who had been restored into God's communion. He was brought back into fellowship with God. He knew, on account of the righteousness and blood of the great Servant of the Father, that he became a servant of God. It is a great benefit when that happens in our life. Remember, the knowledge and awareness of what God has wrought in the way of justice and righteousness is a great grace—but it is not the greatest grace.

In my life I may know that God has looked down upon me and have knowledge that Christ is discovered to my heart; that I have many exercises in my soul with regard to that revealed Christ. It is also a blessing to know where my sins have gone and that the guilt of sin

will never return in my life. It can even be that we have received grace from the "Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15b). Even in the highest state of grace it remains: "...and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17b). The Lord has said, "I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD" (Zephaniah 3:12).

It is necessary that we have a foundation in our life, but the greatest grace is the immediate fellowship with God in my heart. Wilhelmus á Brakel's wife, Sara Nevius, was a woman who knew that her sins were forgiven. Nevertheless, she said to the Lord: "Please say it one more time; not that I doubt Thee, but say it once again because I am so happy when I may hear Thy voice again!"



Bible Stories for Little Ones

The Ten Plagues (3)

(Based on Exodus 7)

Do you have any rivers or lakes near the place where you live? Maybe you even have a small creek running through your back yard. Creeks can be so pretty and peaceful.

In the land of Egypt there was a large river near to the place where the children of Israel lived. That river was called the Nile River and was very important for the Egyptians. They used it for many things. Just remember, in those days people did not have water in their homes; they could not turn on a tap to get water like we do. They had to go to the river to get drinking water, water for washing their clothes, and for bathing. The river was also very important to water the ground so that the people could grow their crops. The people thought so much of the river Nile that they made it into one of their gods. Do you still remember when we told you that many people worshipped strange gods such as the sun and moon, and even gods of love and of war? The Egyptians also worshipped the river Nile.

One day when King Pharaoh was walking near the river, he met Aaron and Moses. They were again coming to ask the king to let them go to worship God. The Lord had told Moses and Aaron to go to the river and there meet Pharaoh. Pharaoh was not happy to see them. Moses and Aaron again said that the Lord wanted them to go to worship, but Pharaoh would not let them go. The Lord had told Moses to then smite the river with the rod that was in his hand. When Moses did that, the river changed color as the water turned into blood.

Pharaoh then called his magicians who also were able to turn water into blood. How is that possible? You and I cannot do that. The Lord allowed them to do this so that He could show even greater wonders to Pharaoh. Pharaoh refused to let the people go. The Bible tells us that Pharaoh's heart was hardened. When our hearts are hardened, we no longer have any respect for God's Word. We should pray to the Lord that our hearts will not be hardened like Pharaoh so that we will listen closely to what the Lord has to say to us in the sermons we hear in church. Think how terrible it was for the Egyptians to have all their water turned into blood. That means that they would have to wash in it and even drink it when they became thirsty. The river also began to

stink because all of the fish died as the Lord had said unto Moses. The people began to dig around the river to try to get water to drink. The water stayed bloody for seven days; then the Lord allowed it to again turn into clean water.

Do you know why the Lord did this to the river? We are told that we must worship and serve the Lord only. When

we serve other gods, the Lord sends His punishments. He punished the Egyptians in this way because they worshipped the Nile as one of their gods. It showed that the Lord was more powerful than all these man-made gods.

The Lord had to bring many punishments upon the Egyptians before Pharaoh would let the people of Israel go to worship. We hope to tell you more next month.



"Waters of the Nile turned into blood"

© Philip De Vere, owner of the Medhurst Collection of Bible illustrations.



Bible Quiz

Opportunity

Dear Boys and Girls,

Ava stomped away, muttering in frustration. Behind her, the last pony was being loaded onto the trailer, and she could hear the four, spotted, goat kids bleating in the second trailer. She felt a hand on her shoulder, but she did not turn around. She knew what her mother was going to say. It happened so often that Ava missed out on something because she had dawdled somewhere. She bent her head and wandered away from the trailers. The animals were leaving the farmer's market, and she would not have another opportunity to pet or ride them.

"I did remind you several times, didn't I?" Mom said softly next to her, sounding as though she felt a bit sorry for Ava. Ava nodded brusquely. If only she had not spent so much time making the picture frame and sand art, and if only she hadn't taken so long examining the many rows of fudge, candy, chocolate pops, and flavored popcorn which her mother would not allow her to buy anyway. Why had she wasted her time? She had come to see the petting zoo most of all, but even the soft, gentle little rabbits were back in the trailers, ready to go home. It was too late. Ava loved animals but only had a parakeet at home, and now she had missed a good opportunity to cuddle all the farm animals she wanted. A tear slipped from the corner of her eye, but she could not do the day over again.

How often does it happen to you, boys and girls, that you miss out on something that was possible for you to do? You have probably all heard at some point in your life, "If you hurry, you will just be in time to..." or "Tomorrow is the only day to do it, so I would not miss it if I were you..." or "Make sure you come if you want to have..." Maybe you need a new suit or dress for church, and your mother says, "I know you were planning on playing outside before dark, but if we don't go to the store now, all the clearance items will be gone, and the sale ends today. Let's go!"

There are many such opportunities in life. Maybe your big brother's boss is offering him a better job, and it is the only chance he will have, the only time he will be offered the job. If he does not take it, someone else will receive it. Something or someone is making the job possible, but it will not always be there. That is what an opportunity is.

Not every opportunity is a good opportunity. You might have the chance to do something good, or you might have the choice to do something bad. If someone comes across your path of life for whom you can do something good, you have an opportunity and should do so. If it is something bad and wrong, you have to turn away from it.

You might even have two voices speaking to you at the same time. One friend tells you, "Don't do it! You'll be in big trouble if you climb on top of the neighbor's car and scratch it!" while another friend tries to convince you, "Just do it fast. Get the Frisbee off the top of the car and jump down before anyone sees you. If anyone asks about it, let's just say we don't know who did it." You can listen to the good, or you can listen to the bad.

You also have the opportunity to go to church. Yes, your parents expect you to go; you have to go, but...you also MAY go. While everyone sometimes has the opportunity to listen or do the right or wrong thing, not everyone has the chance to go to church. Some cannot. They live in a country where it is not allowed. Perhaps they live in a place where there is no church anywhere near. Others grow up not knowing anything about church. Their parents do not go. They never speak about it. They spend their Sundays just like all other days. Maybe it is a day off from work to sleep in, go shopping, and mow the lawn, but it is never a day to listen to God's Word in His house, so the children do not have an opportunity to go either.

Is it possible for you to go to church? Yes? Every Sunday? You only stay home when you are too sick? That is fifty-two times a year, isn't it? Oh, and during the week sometimes, too? If you add up two services per Sunday, midweek services, and special days like Christmas and Good Friday, you might go to church more than one hundred twenty times a year. That adds up to many opportunities.

Opportunities for what? For a better job? A chance to do something that is fun? A time to do something for someone else? No, that is not what I have in mind. A minister long ago used to say, "If you want to get wet, you have to stand in the rain, and if you want to be converted, you have to be in church." In church, there is the opportunity, the possibility, to receive

a new heart. THAT is the opportunity—don't take it for granted.

Or are you like Ava? You mean to listen and to pray for a new heart, but the fly on the shoulder in front of you is so interesting to watch, and the butterfly outside the window is so many pretty colors, and the lights above you are interesting to count... It startles you when the minister announces the psalter. Is it time to sing already? You have not even eaten your second candy yet. Oh, and now you did not listen either and you can't hear it over again. It is done. Well, you will try harder next week. It won't be the same sermon, but there will be another one...

Yet...what happens if you become sick? What happens if you sit in church until you are very old, without ever truly praying to be converted? At some point in time, there will be no more opportunity. A firetruck was spraying water once, and the wet mist was blowing in our direction. Although it felt good to some on such a hot day, I watched an old grandmother with a cane struggle away from the droplets. My two-year-old, who was feeling a bit feverish, whimpered and kicked in his stroller, also wanting to escape the chilly mist. They did not want to become wet. In the same way, you could become too sick or too old to have the ability, the desire, or the opportunity to go to God's house and be under His Word. Maybe your legs will be too shaky to walk or your back hurts too much or you can't drive anymore, or you are very sick or in pain, and you can't think about anything else anymore. Go, listen, read, pray while you CAN, because some day, you might only think about how sad you feel or how much pain you have. Ask the Lord to bless every opportunity you have to be in God's house under His Word. Ask Him to press that Word into your heart.

* * * * *

Take the words from the list and fill them into the blanks below. Find these words in the word search. Most words can be found more than once!

commandments, people, walked, wise, hear, mouth, come, tents, Israel, repent, safely, kingdom

1. "A _____ man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels."

2. "And Moses spake before the LORD, saying, Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh _____ me, who am of uncircumcised lips?"

3. "But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to Thy _____."

4. "_____, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD."

5. "Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own _____, and thy father's house."

6. "Hear, O My people, and I will testify unto thee: O _____, if thou wilt hearken unto Me."

7. "Oh that My people had hearkened unto Me, and Israel had _____ in My ways!"

8. "But murmured in their _____, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD."

9. "_____ ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

10. "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the _____ of heaven."

11. "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell _____, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."

12. "Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my _____."

E T N E P E R E S M O U T H E
W E E S F E L Y T S A F E L Y
A O S E P P I T W E S E O E R
L S I C O M E T E A N T M T E
K T W E O O U N L N T T N O T
E N P C S A F E L Y T E S E C
D E C O M E A P L E T S N M T
W M W M S R T E N T S M T T P
I D I E S E F R T N E P E R S
S N S I M A S M O D G N I K S
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For the Older Children

13. Who sought opportunity to do something very evil, and what was this opportunity? _____
_____ (Matthew 26, Luke 22)

14. To whom did Paul tell the Galatians to seek opportunities to do good unto? _____
_____ (Galatians 6)

15. Unscramble: "But I rejoiced in the Lord _____ (yargetl), that now at the last your _____ (erca) of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also _____ (lercauf), but ye lacked opportunity."

16. Unscramble: "And truly, if they had been _____ (lfmndu) of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have _____ (reertudn)."

For the Younger Children

Take the phrases from the box below and write them in the correct spaces. These texts can be found in Psalm 19 and Matthew 13.

17. The law of the LORD is perfect, _____
_____:
the testimony of the LORD is sure, _____
_____.

18. For this people's heart _____,
and their ears _____,
and their eyes _____; lest at
any time they should see with their eyes and hear
with their ears, and should understand with their
heart, and should be converted, and _____
_____."

*I should heal them making wise the simple
is waxed gross converting the soul
they have closed are dull of hearing*

* * * * *

Answers to December's "Books" quiz:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Rehearse | Exodus 17:14 |
| 2. Mouth | Isaiah 34:16 |
| 3. Nations | Jeremiah 25:13 |
| 4. Spoken | Jeremiah 30:2 |
| 5. Higher | Jeremiah 36:10 |
| 6. Mouth | Jeremiah 36:32 |
| 7. Bush | Mark 12:26 |
| 8. Wilderness | Luke 3:4 |
| 9. Place | Luke 4:17 |
| 10. Suppose | John 21:25 |
| 11. Desolate | Acts 1:20 |
| 12. Slain | Acts 7:42 |
| 13. Troas | 2 Timothy 4:13 |
| 14. Seer | 2 Chronicles 9:29 |
| 15. Wars | 2 Chronicles 12:15 |
| 16. Observe | Joshua 1:8 |
| 17. Stones | Joshua 8:31 |
| 18. Blessings | Joshua 8:34 |
| 19. 39, 27, 66 | |

Please send your answers to the
address shown below:

Aunt LenaBeth
180 Jacobs Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435
E-mail: auntlenabeth@gmail.com

No Root

Rev. W.C. Lamain (1904-1984)

*"And have no root in themselves, and so endure
but for a time"* (Mark 4:17a).

Boys and girls, do not live on as if you shall always remain here. So many young people walk onward to their end without an impression of death and eternity. Light-mindedness is so great and vanity fills the heart. The things of the world have such an upper hand that there is scarcely time anymore for catechism and the examination of the truth.

Our heart is filled with fear when we observe the increasing indifference. How little power the truth wields, and the admonishments of father and mother are almost no longer heeded. We offer ourselves to the Molech of this world. What a privilege it is when there are mothers in the church as Naomi and fathers as Paul. How faithful Naomi dealt with Ruth at the border of Moab. Paul did not spare the congregation of Corinth. Yea, he received freedom to admonish the Galatians with holy earnestness when they were so deeply sunken in their carnal religion.

It is a privilege when we are willing to bear scorn and reproach, concerning the honor of God. The work of God can be tried, and it shall also endure the trial. Wood, hay, and stubble shall burn. Oh, let us consider that there must be a foundation in our heart and life laid by God Himself; that foundation is Jesus Christ. When gold, silver, and precious stones shall be built upon this foundation, they shall be able to abide the trial by fire.

"No root, and so endure but for a time." How this should take hold on every person as a traveler unto the great eternity. We have such a desperately wicked and deceitful heart; who can know it? May each one lay himself before the omniscience of God and examine earnestly how it stands with his soul for the great eternity.

Answers to previous quizzes were received in October from:

Anabelle Berkenbush (2) 8
 William Berkenbush (2) 8
 Eryn Bisschop (3) 4
 Sara Bisschop (2) 3
 Britni Blom (2) 4
 Jenina Blom 6
 Marissa Blom (2) 6
 Riley Blom 5
 Gary Boon 4
 Jenny Boon 5
 Aidan Bosch 1
 Hayley Bosch 7
 Garret Bouman 1
 Nicholas Bouman 1
 Stephanie Bouman 1
 Aleah Dale 2
 Nathan Dale 2
 Nicholas DeVries 5
 Joshua den Breejen 1
 Julianna den Breejen 1
 Cody Driesen 6
 Kacie Driesen 6
 Sam Driesen 6
 Toby Driesen 6
 Kaylynn Ekema 6
 Weston Ekema 4
 Geralyn Engelen 5
 Kariena Engelen 4
 Shawn Engelen 5
 Trevor Engelen 5
 Bradley Greendyk 1
 Kyal Grisnich (2) 2
 Logan Grisnich (2) 3
 Derek Hup 2
 Justin Hup 2
 Olivia Kaat (2) 9
 Ashley Knibbe 7
 Caylea Knibbe (2) 8
 Courtney Knibbe 7
 Donovan Knibbe (2) 9
 Jarynne Knibbe (2) 9

Lindsey Knibbe 7
 Lydia Knibbe (2) 6
 Nathan Knibbe (2) 6
 Quinton Knibbe 7
 Sienna Knibbe (2) 5
 Whitney Knibbe 7
 Lydia Koenen 1
 Marlisa Korevaar (2) 3
 Rebekah Korevaar (2) 3
 Rebecca Krygsman 7
 Sarah Krygsman 8
 Jayci Middelkoop 2
 Lydia Mol 6
 Rachel Mol 4
 Teddy Mol 6
 John Murphy 1
 Marielle Neels 4
 Andrew Remijn 5
 Lauren Remijn 2
 Logan Rozeboom (2) 7
 Mindy Rozeboom (2) 7
 Alex Rus 6
 Jessa Rus (2) 8
 Laura Scherpenzeel 4
 Trevor Spaans 1
 Megan Taylor (3) 3
 Esther Teunissen (2) 7
 Arianna Timmer 7
 Harley Timmer 8
 Hunter Timmer 6
 Kadin Timmer 6
 Sierra Timmer 7
 Skye Timmer 8
 Wyatt Timmer 6
 Lucas Van Bodegraven 2
 Anna Van Brugge 2
 Charity Van Brugge (2) 3
 Jed VanBrugge 2
 Jospeh Van Brugge 1
 Miriam VanBrugge 3
 Elaina Vander Waal 2

Kayleen Vander Waal 1
 Hendrick Van Deuveren (2) 5
 Maurice Van Garderen 6
 Emmalyn Van Garderen 6
 Lydia Van Manen 7
 Rosalee Van Manen 7
 Kaiven Van Middendorp 7
 Konner Van Middendorp 7
 Jozias Van Ravenswaay (2) 7
 Naomi Van Ravenswaay (2) 7
 Jake Vande Stouwe 5
 Jonah Vande Stouwe 5
 Heidi Vandenberg (2) 5
 Renae Vandenberg 4
 Esther Vanden Broek (2) 6

Ian Vanden Broek (2) 6
 Treena Vanden Broek (2) 6
 Austin Van Den Top 2
 Caleb Van Den Top 2
 Arianna Verhoef 6
 Mariette Verhoef (2) 4
 AaneKors Versteeg 1
 Tena Versteeg 1
 Caleb Vogelaar 3
 Matthew Vogelaar 3
 Jonathan Wesdyk 5
 Laura Wesdyk 5
 Rebekah Wesdyk 5
 Alisha Wessels (2) 11

Anthony Wessels 3
 Johanna Wessels 7
 Arthur Wisse (2) 7
 Joanna Wisse (2) 7
 Lane Wisse (2) 6
 Tonia Wisse (2) 7
 Allyson Ymker 3
 Cameron Ymker 7
 Marceil Ymker 8
 Paxton Ymker 3
 Quentin Ymker 3
 Shauntae Ymker 8



30 Bibles were sent this month. The total is 90! Thank you!

Dear Boys and Girls,

For all those who are starting to do the quizzes, here is what we mean when we write how many Bibles were earned. Each time you complete six quizzes and send them to me, Trinitarian Bible Society sends a Bible to young people in Bolivia who are rescued from the streets of big cities. These boys and girls do not have a Bible, and in this way, we hope to bring God's Word to these people. We all need the same blessing upon the same Word of God.

Thank you to all who have helped up to this point in time. It is wonderful to be able to send so many Bibles.



Children in Bolivia learning to read verse by verse from their New Testaments

News & Announcements

Church News

MINISTERIAL CALLS

Extended:

To Rev. M.T. Al-Chalabi of Brakel, the Netherlands, by the congregations of Lethbridge, Alberta, and Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

To Rev. E. Hakvoort of Norwich, Ontario, by the congregation of Aalst, the Netherlands.

To Rev. H. Hofman of Kalamazoo, Michigan, by the congregations of Capelle a/d IJssel West, the Netherlands; Covell Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Nobleford, Alberta; Sioux Center, Iowa; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

To Rev. B.J. Van Boven of De Valk-Wekerom, the Netherlands, by the congregation of Brant County, Ontario.

To Rev. A.H. Verhoef of St. Catharines, Ontario, by the congregation of Corsica, South Dakota.

Declined:

By Rev. H. Hofman of Kalamazoo, Michigan, to the congregation of Sioux Falls, Iowa.

By Rev. A.H. Verhoef of St. Catharines, Ontario, to the congregation of Corsica, South Dakota.

By Rev. P. Van Ruitenbun of Chilliwack, British Columbia, to the congregation of Sunnyside, Washington.

Obituaries

KAISTER, Ladell Gale – Age 76, November 23, 2019; Sioux Falls, Iowa; Wife – Anna Marie; 5 children, 19 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild; Brother – Harris & Bev Kaster; Sister – Dee & William De Stigter; predeceased by infant son Harvey Allen and infant grandson Allen Timothy Breur. (Rev. J.J. Witvoet, Romans 8:10.)

JANSEN, John E. – Age 73, September 2, 2019; Norwich, Ontario; Wife – Ria; Children – Janine Innee, Bill & Monique Jansen; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren; Brother – Reynold & Hennie Jansen; Sister – Dorothy & Arend Van Lagen; brothers- and sisters-in-law; predeceased by brother Dirk Jansen and sister Maasje. (Rev. E. Hakvoort, Job 13:9a.)

ROSEBOOM, Wouterina – Age 91, November 15, 2019; Chilliwack, British Columbia; Husband – E.J. Roseboom (deceased); Children – Mike & Barb Roseboom, Johanna & Ron Wiebe, Adeline & Marty Zylstra, Brad & Lisa Roseboom, Al & Marlene Roseboom; 22 grandchildren and 44 great-grandchildren; survived by sisters and 3 brothers; predeceased by 3 brothers. (Rev. P. Van Ruitenbun, 2 Timothy 4:7&8.)

RUS, Anna – Age 93, December 4, 2019; Corsica, South Dakota; Sister – Coby & Henry Frens; survived by many nieces and nephews; predeceased by brothers Jake, Herman, John & Hattie Rus, and sister Cora & Gerrit John Teunissen. (Rev. J.J. Witvoet, Matthew 1:23.)

SINKE, Brenda (nee Lobbezo) – Age 87, December 7, 2019; Norwich, Ontario; Husband – Jim (deceased); Children – Larry & Joy Sinke, Christine & Tom Wright, Joan & Ron Bahm, Elizabeth & Ron VanManen, Bob & Marian Sinke; 17 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren; survived by 4 brothers, 2 sisters, and sister-in-law; predeceased by a granddaughter, 1 sister, and several in-laws. (Rev. E. Hakvoort, Isaiah 40:6-8.)

VAN BEEK, Egbert – Age 84, November 20, 2019; Sioux City, Iowa; Wife – Ella JoAnn; Children – Roger & Lori Van Beek, Rodney & Kathy Van Beek, Lynn & Mindy Van Beek, Wanda Jansma; 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild; Brother-in-law – Dick Burgers; predeceased by brother Albert Van Beek, sister Gertrude Burgers, sister and brother-in-law Nellie and Bill Middendorp. (Rev. J.J. Witvoet, Matthew 25:10b.)

VAN HOLLAND, Donnadell (nee Bleeker) – Age 70, November 25, 2019; Hull, Iowa; Husband – Herman; Children – Tony Van Holland, Gwen & Mark den Hollander, Todd & Aimee Van Holland; 6 grandchildren; Brother – Karlin & Carolyn Bleeker. (Rev. J.J. Witvoet, Isaiah 40:6-8.)

VAN WINGERDEN, Kathleen (nee Vriezema) – Age 83, November 19, 2019; Pompton Plains, New Jersey; Husband – Arie; Children – John & Jane Van Wingerden, Alan & Anita Van Wingerden, Ron & Joyce Van Wingerden, Paul & Stacey Van Wingerden, Glen & Nicole Van Wingerden; 21 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; Sister – Ruth Oliviero; many in-laws; predeceased by brother Richard Vriezema. (Rev. H. de Leeuw, Psalm 56:8b.)

Anniversary and other announcements will be placed upon request. A donation for their placement would be appreciated. For consistency, size is limited. Please send your request to the managing editor, Dr. E. Nieuwenhuis, whose address is shown inside the front cover. Requests for placement should be made **by the first of the month prior to the month of publication.**

New Dial in Number for NRC Lynden, Washington

For those who wish to dial in to the services of Lynden NRC, Washington, the new telephone number is **360-245-7005**.

Young Adult/Post-High School Winter Weekend

Friday, January 31 & Saturday, February 1, 2020

The Kalamazoo Young Adult Steering Committee is planning a two-day, one-night trip to an all-inclusive retreat center on Bankson Lake in Lawton, Michigan. This will be an opportunity to build friendships, enjoy winter activities, and take part in meaningful topics and discussions led by Rev. Hofman. We look forward to seeing many of you there. Please contact Mrs. Liz DeVries at lizd@mwf.net or text 296-808-2146 with any questions. For further information and to register for the retreat, visit www.kalamazooretreats.org. The password for the site is: **conference**.

60th Wedding Anniversary

The Lord willing,
our dear parents, grandparents,
and great-grandparents,

Marinus & Corrie Roos

hope to commemorate their
60th wedding anniversary
on January 20, 2020.

"And the LORD shall guide thee continually"
(Isaiah 58:11a).

109-8920-2 Broadway St.
Chilliwack, BC V2P 5W1

The Banner of Truth in Audio Format

Monthly copies of the articles which appear in *The Banner of Truth* are available on MP3s and CDs for those who have reading difficulties such as poor vision. These MP3 files are produced by a committee in Norwich, Ontario, with the support of the Norwich consistory, and they make the MP3 files available to the consistories of the end user. The consistories then distribute the MP3s and CDs which are provided at no cost to the end user.

To arrange for a free subscription, contact Mrs. Leona den Dekker at 519-403-5178 or ldendekker@rcsnorwich.com.

Education

CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, COALHURST, ALBERTA, anticipates several vacancies for the 2019-2020 school year and welcomes applications from qualified teachers interested in any position, including:

- Elementary teachers
- Secondary teachers (especially in high school English language arts and social studies/history, though other specialties are also invited).

We would be grateful to welcome applications from competent, versatile, and dedicated teachers of any grade/age level who also have a love for the truth which is according to godliness and who are members of the NRC or a closely related denomination. All applicants must be eligible for Alberta certification. Should the Lord incline your heart to apply, please submit a cover letter with your résumé or CV to office@ccschool.ca. For more information about the vacancies, available immigration supports, or the application process, please contact the principal, Marc Slingerland, at 403-381-3030 or marc.slingerland@ccschool.ca.

EBENEZER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN, is in urgent need of a teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. We have a very small multigrade classroom school. Certification is not required for this position, although it would be helpful. Currently the school board acts as principal with oversight by the consistory. May this position and our need be remembered in prayer, and be bound upon someone's heart to come over and help us. Any questions regarding this position or any interested applicants, please contact Randall Teunissen at 920-894-3395 or by e-mail at rdteunissen@yahoo.com.

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, POMPTON PLAINS, NEW JERSEY, We are interested in receiving applications for the following two positions: 1) For a transition into the administrator role of our school for the 2020-2021 school year. Qualified applicants would be those with educational administrative experience or who are experienced teachers with administrative aspirations. A suitable transition will be instituted based on the applicant's experience and background. The applicant should be a male in good standing from the Netherlands Reformed Congregations who has a burden and desire for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the students. 2) For a teaching position opening for the 2020-21 school year. Qualified applicants would be those capable of teaching various Literature and other English related courses at the junior and senior high levels.

To apply or request more information, please contact the education chairman, Mr. Tim Mol, at 973-204-5677 or tjmol@yahoo.com or the administrator, Mr. John Van Der Brink, at 973-628-7400 or jvanderbrink@nrdsnj.org.

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, ROCK VALLEY/SIOUX CENTER, IOWA, is a Pre-K through 12th grade school serving 420 students from the NRC of Rock Valley, Sioux Center, and Sioux Falls. We are seeking to fill the following positions: a secondary math/science teacher and a music teacher. The focus of the music position would be instrumental (5-12 band/orchestra) along with other opportunities in K-12 music. Please contact the principal, Mr. Daniel Breuer, at 712-476-2821 or dan.breuer@nrscia.org for further information.

PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN, invites inquiries from teachers desiring to teach in our small K-9 school. Interested parties, please contact the principal, Tom Kwekel, at tom.kwekel@gmail.com or 616-644-2661 for more information.

REHOBOTH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, NORWICH, ONTARIO, is a kindergarten through grade 12 school, located in the small town of Norwich, Ontario. We have an enrollment of approximately 850 students. We offer academic, vocational, and special education programs to meet the diverse needs of a large, supporting, Reformed community. As continued growth is expected, we anticipate a range of unique teaching and employment opportunities well into the future. We are currently accepting applications to fill teacher and paraeducator openings at various levels for the 2020-2021 school year. We welcome those interested in joining our committed and supportive team to contact the Director of School Operations, Mr. John Heikoop, to discuss employment opportunities. He can be reached by phone at 519-863-2403, ext. 223, or by email at director@rcsnorwich.com. To submit a cover letter and résumé, please email hr@rcsnorwich.com.

To All Candidates for Teacher Positions

Please visit advertising.nrcea.education for an up-to-date listing of job openings in NRCEA schools as well as links to the school websites for more information about the positions and the schools. When accessing the job bank on the NRCEA SharePoint, please use the following:

User Name:
advertising@nrcea.education
Password:
Schooljobs!

To All of Our Readers

On behalf of the editorial and subscription staff, as well as all others who labor to bring you *The Banner of Truth* each month, we wish you and your loved ones the Lord's blessing and presence in the year 2020. It is our hope and prayer that the copy sent to you each month may be for your instruction, comfort, and correction. We also wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to all who have contributed in whatever manner to *The Banner of Truth* in the past year.

—The Editors

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Commit Thy Way unto the Lord

I know not what this year will bring
That's granted unto me;
But grant, O Lord, what 'ere transpires
May drive me unto Thee.

O Lord, Thy way is in the sea,
Thy footsteps are not known;
But wilt Thou keep me near to Thee;
May I not walk alone.

Thou knowest every path I've trod,
For it was planned by Thee;
Ordained before the world was made,
From all eternity.

Be Thou a Husband unto me,
A Father to my seed;
And may my children also look
To Thee in every need.

May we by grace in all our ways
And circumstances yield
Our wills to Thine, and wilt Thou be
Our fortress, help and shield.

— *Jack R. Swets*
Musings of the Heart
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