BACKGROUND BRIEFS

by Agatha Lubbers

The Winter issue of the 1982-1983 publishing season brings us to the mid-point of our publishing year and for those of us who teach, it brings us to the close of one semester in this academic year.

One of the highlights for teachers during the first semester of the academic year is the annual teachers' convention that is sponsored by the Institute that is responsible for the publishing of *Perspectives in Covenant Education.* This year that convention was held at the South Holland, Illinois, Protestant Reformed Christian School.

The winter issue of the *Perspectives* usually publishes some of the presentations that are made at the meetings and sectionals of the convention.

The article entitled the "Socio-Economic Environment of the Last Days" by Mr. Rick Noorman was one of those that was presented at the convention. Several other presentations will have to wait until the Spring issue.

* * * * * * * * * * *

The keynote speaker of the 1981 Teachers' Convention held at Covenant Christian High School was Rev. Carl Haak. Rev. Haak is pastor of Southeast Protestant Reformed Church, Grand Rapids. His speech, "Teaching the Children Jehovah's Strength," introduces the series of articles published in this edition of *Perspectives.* His speech should be a source of inspiration to us as we begin the second semester of work.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Mr. John Kalsbeek, fourth grade teacher at Adams Street Christian School, has prepared an article about the value of field trips. His article will be a stimulus to us in our plans for teaching outside the walls of the classroom.

Permission to reprint the article "Parents Are Accountable Too" was granted by the author, Mrs. Joanne De Jong, and by the *Banner.* The article first appeared in *The School Bell* (April, 1981), a publication of the Chicago Southwest Christian School. In a condensed version it was reprinted in the *Banner,* September 7, 1981. It is printed now in its unedited form. It's an article intended for parents and for teachers.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Several years ago (longer than I care to admit) I received an article entitled "Social Science and the Faith" submitted by the Rev. C.F. Coleborn of Toowong, Queensland, Australia. Although this article is a copy of a paper prepared for the educational committee of the Goodna Christian School Association of Toowong, Australia, in November of 1978, the concerns of this paper are still current. It is our prayer that the arguments and the ideas presented by Rev. Coleborn will encourage others of us to think about this topic.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Occasionally we publish poetry. A poem was submitted by Rev. Robert C. Harbach entitled "Death." This poem Rev. Harbach says is written in Tolkienese. In the letter accompanying the poem Rev. Harbach stated that "the poem was inspired partly by reading former issues in your publication evaluating Tolkien, *et. al.,* and also partly, the result of the Lord's bringing me through a serious heart attack. This affliction He used to cause me to think anew of Death and to talk on the subject on my sickbed with my pastor and other of our ministers." Rev. Harbach is a retired Protestant Reformed minister. With gratitude we receive this contribution from the pen of Rev. Harbach. May it stimulate others to write creatively.

* * * * * * * * * * *

The article entitled "The Agony and the Ecstasy of My Teaching" by Nelle Vander Ark, is reprinted by the permission of the *Outlook.* This article appeared first in the Summer, 1981 *RBC Newsletter* and was reprinted in the December, 1981, *Outlook.* Miss Nelle Vander Ark is Associate Professor of Communications at the Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

* * * * * * * * * *

The editors of *Perspectives* wish to all of its readers a blessed New Year.

With this wish we also remind our readers that *Perspectives in Covenant Education* operates on a financial shoestring. Your prompt response to the two-year mailing of bills helps us reduce postage expenses. We appreciate greatly the donations (small and large) that are sent.

Please let us know promptly if there is a change of address.

§ § § § §

The devil would have us forget his presence in the school environment. He would prefer that we perceive the school as neutral ground and the child as a non-combatant. But such deception is a key weapon in his arsenal. The conflict between the Truth and the father of lies is part of every school day. The choice of weapons may be the choice of textbooks or the choice of curricular experiences. Although the teacher may elect *Huck Finn* and intend it for edification, the crafty devil may readily concur and intend it for damnation. The athletic coach may choose for basketball and intend it for human cooperation, but the father of lies may use it for establishing pride. The medium of warfare, the tool of battle, may be the curriculum, but those who wish to redeem are not the only ones who desire to use it. Satan, using the myriad of human agents at his beck and call, seeks to turn and twist every curricular experience, every idea, and every action to his own rebellious end. He is even not averse to using saintly Christian teachers as his mouthpiece. The Apostle Peter (unsuspectingly used by Satan) had to experience Christ's rebuke: 'Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me' (Matt. 16:23). Unable to avoid his insidious and subtle doing, the Christian teacher rises in opposition, selecting, guiding and interpreting for the student.

Education in the Truth, pp. 76-77
Norman DeJong