SPECIAL FOCUS

Several of our schools have anniversaries this year. To focus on each one in a separate issue of our journal, which comes out quarterly, will mean that two of the schools will not appear till after their anniversary year is past. But we'd like to do that anyway. We'll start with Loveland's 25th Anniversary, and hope that you'll look forward to our summer and fall issues for the next two.

Loveland's school, as it is today, is pictured on the front cover. Not always have our people in Loveland enjoyed such nice facilities. When school opened for the first time in September of 1961, the students met in the basement of what used to be a school, but served then as Loveland's church building. As you'll learn from the article which follows, that old building still stands. It's pictured on the next page. Things have obviously changed much since the day when Miss Ruth Kuiper first opened the "school" doors to the seven enrolled students. ". . . who hath despised the day of small things?" (Zech. 4:10). Our God has truly blessed. We congratulate Loveland at the occasion of this anniversary, and wish them the continued favor of our covenant-keeping Father in heaven. (Please note that we're all invited to attend their special anniversary program, which is being planned for the 22nd of May. Maybe, if you don't live in Loveland, you can plan your vacation to coincide with that.) We thank Mr. Steve Ezinga, School Board secretary, for providing us with this brief informative and inspiring commemorative article.

Loveland Anniversary

Steve Ezinga

On March 23, 1959 the late Rev. H. H. Kuiper led in prayer and gave a short lecture on the necessity of our own Christian school. A question and answer session was entered into and afterward a motion was made, supported, and carried to organize a Christian School Society. A committee was elected to look into the possibility of organizing a Christian school and to gather ideas for a concept constitution.

April 20, 1959 the first School Society meeting was held. Roll call shows a total of 11 members; two more men joined the Society that night. The concept constitution was discussed and adopted and five men were elected from nominees from the Society to serve as the first functionary School Board.

Over the next three years much work was put into building sites or buildings that would be suitable for housing children and a teacher. There were buildings that could be erected, rented, or moved (even an army barracks was looked into), but each was found to be not feasible in one way or another. The work was hard, time-consuming, and at times frustrating. But there were the lectures by Rev. Kuiper, Rev. Lubbers, Rev. Veldman, and others who came into our area. These lectures kept the men fit for the task and made them zealous to have a Christian school here in Loveland.

Finally, after much work, many prayers, and by the grace of God we received a signed contract to teach grades 1-5 from Miss Ruth Kuiper (now Ruth Nobel) to teach in the 1961-1962 school year. Books were ordered (including some McGuffy Readers), and a budget and tuition scale was adopted and approved by the Society. On September 12, 1961 school began here in Loveland, Colorado.

The 1986-1987 school year marks 25 years of Christian education here in Loveland. With the review of the work of our school's founding fathers, the conviction that they held, their trust in the Lord, one can

not but marvel at how it all began some 25 years ago. Our school was held in the basement of what was our church building at the time. Our modest beginning still stands a half mile west of here. It is rundown and vacant (see picture on previous page), and is sort of a landmark for the residents of the Loveland area. To us it is a reminder of how God answered our prayers and gave us a start in the Christian education of our covenant seed.

Today much has changed. We have our own school building, grades K-9th, four teachers with a total of 52 students for the 1986-1987 school year. Truly, God has greatly blessed us and has given us much to be thankful for.

Proverbs 22:6 – "Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" is the theme that was chosen for the celebration of our 25th Anniversary. We would like to extend an invitation to all who can attend. The celebration date is set for May 22, 1987. Items planned are a 25th Anniversary Booklet, with a program and a supper to be held in the evening.

If anyone would like some additional information concerning the 25th anniversary celebration, contact either of the following Board members. Also anniversary booklets are available at a small fee, to cover the cost of printing and postage.

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FEATURE

We're always glad to have something from Rev. David Engelsma on the pages of our journal. He's a friend of Christian education and a writer of uncommon ability. This time, as you'll learn from his first footnote, we have from him the text of a speech delivered in another country. But, for all that, it's no less applicable to the supporters of our own schools; for he speaks of a war that is going on in every country where there is conflict between light and darkness. It's a war of ideas, and the main object of the enemy, he says, is our children. What does all this have to do with Christian education? Read on: