

Herald



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ENCOURAGING OUR COVENANT SOLDIERS

Mr. Brian Kuiper, Administrator

"When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people, and shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; for the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you."

Deuteronomy 20:1-4

Recently Protestant Reformed teachers from across North America met for a convention. The sectionals were theoretical and practical in nature. The fellowship and food were wonderful! The theme that the committee chose had to do with encouragement for covenant soldiers. This article will summarize the keynote address that was delivered by Prof. D. Kuiper. The content is a summary of his speech. The applications of content are mostly from discussions at convention or from conversations in the weeks after the convention.

The Christian is in a battle. Preparing for that battle requires training because the enemy is strong and typically very intimidating. Our schools have been established to work with the home and the church as "training grounds". While it is clear that the enemy *is* the ungodly, the devil, and our old sinful nature, that enemy *manifests* itself in so many ways in today's society. The Christian must walk wary of the landmines that clutter the path upon which he walks. These include some of the following enemies which are certainly not new:

- many public expressions of **homosexuality** or other perversions of the truth like gender dysphoria. Literature, television, and the internet have pushed these agendas into the faces of our children so that our children cannot live a day without coming into contact with this enemy.
- **evolution** as the unquestionable truth. One cannot read scientific textbooks or materials without coming into contact with some form of evolution. Even Christian publishings need to be read with great discretion as theistic evolution pervades many of them. Here again literature has been impacted as well as field trips to museums or other places.

- **humanism**. Simply put - how great is the influence of the world on our worldview, on how we seek to solve our troubles, and on how we determine what we need? This too is what our children are bombarded by in what they hear, read, and see.

- **apathy** towards education and the truths needed to fight the battle. While the world sees education as a means to a better job or higher pay, the Christian must see education first of all as training for the battle. Are we - parents, teachers, administrator, grandparents - continuing to hold education and the training of His children in high regard? Do we speak carefully about subject matter and academic rigor so that His children know the importance of this training?

The passage in Deuteronomy 20 is helpful in this matter because it shows us how God encourages us in this battle. In these verses, He reminds the Israelites, and therefore us, that He is God, that He is with them, and that He is faithful. This they could see in the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire. This they could see in the ark. This they knew because He led them forth from Egypt. We read in verse 4, "For the Lord your God is He that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you". What encouragement to the tired and troubled warrior to know that the One leading into battle is all powerful and cannot be defeated! How do we teach students that He is the One encouraging them?

- teach **creation**. When we know what we are studying is His, made and fashioned by Him, how can we not stop in awe and wonder to feel Him strengthening us for this learning. The Belgic Confession on this matter encourages and inspires us. In Article 2, we read that the creation "is before our eyes as a most elegant book, wherein all creatures, great and small, are as so many characters leading us to contemplate the invisible things of God, namely His power and divinity".

- teach **providence and sovereignty**. What can encourage the warrior more than to know that His God is powerful over all things and leads them to the intended purpose that only

He knows! This knowledge turns us from humanism, from idolatry, and from a worldview of one who is beat down to the worldview of one who knows he has all he needs in Him!

- teach with very specific biblical **integrations** and **applications** in all subjects. Understood and learned in this way, all knowledge is meaningful and necessary because it points us to Him! He is the One who commands us in clear language, "Feed My sheep" (John 21: 16, 17). When we are His, we must see Him in everything - and we will be filled.

The teachers were also taught that the passage commands us to encourage each other. In the passage, this was indicated in verse 2, where the priest spoke to the people. He was the one who told them to not fear but go into battle because God was with them. The encouragement of teachers by each other and the encouragement of teachers by parents is that which prods all of us into the battle. Knowing that one is not alone, knowing that one has support, knowing that others are fighting the same battles is either a source of encouragement or a source of pity. May it be that we are using these discussions to encourage and not to bring down. How do we do this?

- by **speaking to** each other (as opposed to about each other) with kind words intended to build up and support. Much feedback on teaching or parenting has been given in a kind and productive way, and much good has come from that advice.

- by **helping** our children with their coursework when they are struggling, and thus showing them the importance of learning it.

- by being **servants** one to another. Think only of the encouragement that was yours the last time someone served you in some manner.

Together let us go forth in this endeavor knowing that "the battle belongs to the Lord!"

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT – Mr. Troy Karsemeyer

The Technology Committee is composed of two members of the school board who help oversee the myriad of computers (we're at 161 just for students!), cameras, switches, software, servers, and the network that connects it all together.

As years pass by, we seem to become more and more reliant on technology. With that comes some disadvantages but also many advantages. We've all experienced the unanticipated outage or malfunctioning piece of equipment which quickly brings that dependence to light. Advances in technology also cause current technology to become

obsolete more quickly as well. We are always trying to stay ahead of these quirks that come with technology. Some more dramatic past changes in the tech landscape at Heritage, such as transitioning to Chromebooks from desktops, have settled more into a life-cycle process of keeping hardware fresh and up-to-date while continuing to analyze ways to bring improvements that will benefit the teachers, students, staff, and school. A few note-worthy events since our last year's update include:

- 2 carts of Chromebooks were replaced in the beginning of this calendar year
- Additional exterior cameras have been installed to provide better coverage
- In the library, 7 new Chromebooks were installed to replace outdated iPads
- Purchasing and installing a new server to replace an old one damaged by a power surge
- Recycling many of the old desktop PCs that accumulated during Chromebook transitions
- A recent power outage uncovered a non-functional fiber cable that was repaired

Heritage was able to take advantage of the *The Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools* (EANS) grant program which provides funding for services and assistance to Michigan non-public schools to address COVID-19-related educational disruptions. Some of our technology was funded through this program in order to allow for remote learning

and teaching during the last years when needed. We are still taking advantage of what is left of this opportunity.

Our students continue to remain protected by GoGuardian, a Chromebook monitoring and teacher facilitator application that keeps our children safer in a digital learning environment.

The technology committee continues to be largely assisted by Greg Johnson, our contracted IT administrator. Greg and his team have now provided his expertise to the school for many years, and we are thankful for his support for day-to-day operations and issues that arise.

As we continue to monitor and make improvements to our technology, we pray that our use of it helps to aid our staff and students in a covenant education.

FEDERATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Mr. Jon Drnek

The Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies is made up of members from the various Protestant Reformed school boards. The purpose of the federation is to deal with matters pertaining to the school societies in common. A large portion of that work involves teacher training.

One way that training happens is with the mentoring program. This program pairs new teachers with experienced teachers to help them through their first several years. Mentoring topics include everything from grading and teaching strategies to the doctrinal principles of reformed education. Several teachers at Heritage are currently in this program. This is a big commitment for the teachers, but the board feels it is very valuable for our teachers. The federation is also looking into a mentoring program for college students as they pursue their teaching degrees.

Another training opportunity being offered again this year is the “History and Principles of Reformed Education” course taught by Professor Dykstra. The goal of this course is to educate teachers, prospective teachers, board members and interested individuals in the topic of Reformed education. It is designed to help teachers and board members better understand the history and principles that underlie the work of the good, Christian school. The federation is also working with several teachers to develop new training material on doctrine applied to education. This material will help our teachers bring the truths of God into the classroom.

Though the Federation does do other work to benefit the school societies in common, this training is the work with the most impact. We pray that the Lord will bless it and that he will continue to provide us with more well-qualified teachers to perform this great work.

BEHOLD THE BEASTS! – Miss Joyce Holstege

“Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox. Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron. He is the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him. Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the

field play. He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens. The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about. Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth. He taketh it with his eyes: his nose pierceth through snares.” (Job 40:15-24)

When the makeup of the kindergarten classes for this school year showed that they were very male dominated (28 boys out

14 girls), Mrs. Pastoor and I decided this was the year to use dinosaurs to decorate the rooms. After all, what little boy doesn't like dinosaurs? So, we found some cute clipart that include purple dinosaurs for the girls and started to decide what to name the classes. That was when I realized I only knew about the Brontosaurus (from my experience watching the Flintstones in the 60's) and the T-Rex (because who hasn't heard of a T-Rex?). Beyond knowing the names, I didn't even know much about those two.

It soon became apparent that if I was going to stay ahead of these kiddos, I was going to have to brush up on my dino facts. Knowing that Ken Ham in Answers in Genesis was a reliable source, I went to his website and found one of his books, Dinosaur Facts for Kids. If you have any little paleontologists in your family, I highly recommend going through this book with them. In his book, Ham uses what he calls the 7 ages of the dinosaur: Formed, Fearless, Fallen, Flood, Faded, Found, and Fiction to describe his Biblically backed theory of the history of the dinosaurs beginning on the sixth day of creation to the current day in which he describes the fiction of evolution and theories that are taught about dinosaurs today.

One of the dinosaurs that he talks about in his book is the behemoth that is described in Job 40. The point of the passage is to show Job and us the might and the power of God and the wonders of His creation; reminding us that we may not question the ways of the almighty God. While we may not know exactly what the behemoth was and while we may not know exactly what each dinosaur God created looked like, we, like Job, can certainly know from God's word and from creation that God is an awesome God and creator.

Many commentaries suggest that the word behemoth can be interpreted as beasts. Rather than try to determine the actual animal that this passage refers to let's consider some of the beasts that God created and we have learned about from the fossils and bones that have been found in the earth.

Dinosaur Facts taken from the Dinosaurs for Kids by Ken Ham:

- The first dinosaur bone fossils were found in the 1600s but the majority were found and identified from the 1800s to the present.
- Scientists theorize that there were about 50 kinds of dinosaurs.
- The average size of dinosaur skeleton on record is the size of a sheep; the smallest, a bird-like dinosaur, measuring about 2 inches and the largest, the Argentinosaurus, measuring about 100 feet long. (These were both discovered in the last 50 years.)
- The first dinosaur eggs, found in the 1800s, were one foot long. They were believed to be laid by the Hypselosaurus, lizard-like dinosaur that could grow to be 25 feet long.
- Fossils of 2 feet long dinosaur eggs have been found in China.
- A T-Rex that scientists named Sue was found in South Dakota in 1990. Its skeleton is about 40 feet long and about 12 feet tall at the hip with a skull over 5 feet long.
- A Quetzalcoatlus, found in Texas, was a flying reptile with a wingspan of 32 feet. (For reference, a bald eagle has a wingspan of 6-7½ feet.)

While we won't know all the facts about these animals, we can certainly learn fascinating things about them in the fossils and bones found in the earth. Like Job, we can be reminded of the amazing power of the great God who created these creatures. How can we question the ways of God? Rather, we can only stand in awe of the uniqueness of our being, so small and insignificant if we can compare ourselves to God, but immensely loved by Him as His own dear children and held in His everlasting arms. How great is our God!

THANKFUL PEOPLE OF GOD – Mr. Benji Kuiper

As Thanksgiving approaches, I think it is important for us to sit back and reflect on all of the things that God has blessed us with. As totally depraved sinners, it's so easy for us to take things for granted or spend all of our time thinking about things that we don't have. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." If we were to take some time and make a list of all of the things that God has done for us and given us, this list could go on and on and on. God has blessed us with so much and therefore we are to give thanks to Him in EVERYTHING as we read in 1 Thessalonians.

For those of you who don't know, I received my bachelor's degree from Calvin University. Throughout my college

education, I had the opportunity to visit many different schools. After my short time of teaching at Heritage, I have quickly realized how blessed we are at this school. To be able to attend a good, Christian school every single day is something that I believe is so often taken for granted. Heritage Christian school is composed of parents, teachers, and students alike, all of which share the same love for Christ. It's truly a blessing to be able to teach the different subjects through the lens of scripture and have Christ right at the forefront of it all. I can't even imagine coming to school each day as a teacher and not being able to discuss God or talk about Him.

This idea of thanksgiving, and specifically having thankful hearts for this Christian school is something that I have discussed with my 6th grade students. In response to this, I asked my students to take some time and write down why they are thankful for Heritage Christian school and more specifically why they are thankful to be able to receive a Christian education. All of them wrote nice, thought out answers, but I have decided to include only a few responses below:

- Amber Spronk - "I'm very thankful to be in Heritage Christian School because it is a very big school and we're like one big family. In 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 it says that the church is one big body, we rejoice with one another and we suffer together. Heritage Christian School is great even though it's big - everyone knows each other and there are so many wonderful teachers.

We are especially thankful for all of the supporters and different staff and committees. All I have to say is thank you God."

- Cole Drnek - "I am thankful to come to this Christian school because it teaches about the Lord. I think it's a good school because it is a good environment because we grow up with godly friends. They also teach us how to act in a godly manner."
- Jaycob Karsemeyer - "I'm thankful that we have a Christian school because I have Christian friends and teachers who believe in the same thing I do. We mustn't take it for granted because some families don't have the ability to attend a Christian school."

HOMEWORK – Mrs. Rhonda Holstege

Your child comes home from school and has homework, but it is a nice day outside. You really need them to do some cleaning up around the house. You have to leave soon for a ballgame or piano lesson. Homework can wait, can't it?

Whenever you choose to let your child do their homework, how do you get them engaged in their work? First, be clear with your expectations. They should know that when it is time to work, they are expected to work - not "give me another 5 minutes and then I will do my homework". Be firm. Homework should happen when the parent says so. Second, share your "enthusiasm" with your child. I know, homework isn't always fun for the parent or the child, but if the parent acts like it is a chore, it will become a chore for the child as well. Third, maybe depending on the child's age, make a game out of it. Use flashcards as a way of learning, instead of reading from their notes. Make a story about the lesson to be learned. Use acronyms or certain tunes to help memorize

ideas or concepts. Sometimes providing real examples from life can help with memorizing ideas. Fourth, being patient is probably one of the hardest things to be, when your child does not want to learn or do homework. Try not to raise your voices, or they will become disengaged. Emphasize important words, use a voice that changes pitch to show excitement, and challenge them to be better.

If all else fails, have them run outside for one minute – run around your house or pool, do jumping jacks to get the blood moving, and get them back to doing their homework. We do not want to create a high-pressure atmosphere, or we will lose the child and homework will not be accomplished. Tears and tantrums may occur, but sticking with it and accomplishing small tasks first will hopefully help. Keep your child interested and hopefully they will be engaged to do their homework.

MEMORIES OF GRANDPARENTS – Mrs. Sandy Glashower

On October 28, 2022, our school hosted a Grandparents Day and prior to this event all fourth graders wrote reports to read aloud in front of the grandparents. Our class read aloud reports specifically about one of their grandparents. Interviewing a grandparent and then writing about him/her was a valuable exercise for each to learn what life was like for the grandparents compared to themselves today. In

addition, they learned that their grandparents cherished the Lord Jesus and them, their grandchild. Included in this report, students shared special or happy memories they had of their grandparents. Following are excerpts of our entire class, which I hope helps grandparents realize how important you are to your grandchildren.

- Things I like to do with my grandma are visit her at her house and play outside and swim and play games.
- My favorite memory about my Grandma is when we went to Florida together. I loved it when she made sandcastles with me. I love my Grandma!
- My favorite memory of my grandmother was going to a baseball game with her and Grandpa Dykstra and my cousins. It was fun being all together and I had a good time with my grandparents who I love very much.
- I love my oma because she loves me and she would do anything to help me. Last, she raised my mom to be a good mom to me. Thank you oma.
- About two weeks ago, I remember my grandma took my brother and me to my cousin Trey's football game. We sat down and watched the game for 10 minutes until we decided it was too cold to sit there. We packed up and went to Burger King instead for a delicious, warm lunch while Trey was still playing his football game. That was a fun experience with my grandma.
- A special memory I have is camping with my grandparents and cousins during the summer. At the campground, we would swim in the lake and tube behind my grandpa's boat. This was great fun and I love doing this with them.
- One of my favorite memories I share with my grandma is staying overnight at Soaring Eagle WaterPark and Hotel. I had a blast playing at the waterpark. It was great fun! I am grateful that my grandma was there with us.
- Two fun events I remember doing with my Grandpa Koole were playing badminton in the backyard and also golfing with him, my dad and my brothers. I really had a good time with them.
- An activity I loved doing with my grandparents was going to a park to play every Friday while on vacation. That was so much fun! My grandpa said that his life has been quite an adventure, and that he wants me to have one too. Thank you grandpa for giving me great adventures so far.
- One thing that I love doing with my grandma is baking chocolate chip cookies in the fall at our house. I am very grateful for my grandmother!
- My favorite memory is going fishing with my grandpa, siblings, and cousin in gravel pits during the school year even though we did not catch anything!
- A happy memory I have of my grandma is we get to go to her cottage every summer to swim, play games, and have fun. I will always cherish these times with my dear Grandma Dykstra.
- I like that my grandpa knows a lot about birds and that he freely tells us the names of many birds. I also enjoy it when he takes us fishing at our cottage. These are special memories I love about my Grandpa Mast.
- A special time or memory I have of my grandma is jumping on the pogo stick at her house and camping in the Traverse City campground. I also like to pick vegetables from her garden. I especially like Cherry Tomatoes. These are memories I cherish of my grandma.
- Some good memories I have of my grandma are going on vacations with her to Lake Missaukee or Hamlin Lake during the summer. Also, I love going to her house for homemade pizza on Saturday nights or a delicious, hot meal on Sunday noon. Lastly, what I love most about my grandma is that she is so kind. I pray I will be like her.
- My favorite memories of my grandpa are us fishing together for crappie and vacationing in the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee with the entire Bylsma side. I love doing things with my grandpa. He is special to me.
- My favorite memory of my grandpa was going fishing for pike and salmon in Lake Michigan. I had a lot of fun with him!
- My favorite memories with my grandpa are him taking me tubing on his lake several times in the summer. The best part I like about tubing is jumping the waves in the lake and the wake behind the boat. I am very grateful for my grandpa.
- A memory that I will never forget is when my grandpa, my cousin, and I all raced around his house and my grandpa came in last place. That was so much fun! I love my grandpa very much.
- I love my grandma because she takes us on vacations and she cares for me. My favorite memory is when she brought all the cousins to Florida. That was so much fun!
- A fond memory I have of my grandma is going to Build A Bear with her and Drew and vacationing in North Carolina and Alabama with all the Kooles. These times were so fun!
- A favorite memory I have of my grandpa is camping with him every year at Pentwater Campground. We would hang out at the beach everyday and play in the water. This was fun!

DO YOU EVER GET MAD? – Mr. Rick Gritters

Think of something that bothers you, really bothers you. Maybe it's congested traffic or an accident or a slow train that makes you late for work. Maybe it's a client that completely forgets about an appointment you've had scheduled for weeks. Does the copy machine get jammed at the office right in the middle of a big project? Or maybe it's that car in front of you that suddenly decides to turn left without using a blinker! Maybe you've just finished sweeping or mopping the floor and your child and her friend parade into the kitchen with dirt all over their shoes. Each one of us has particular situations that really get under our nerves.

Now I'm wondering, when you were thinking of your own annoyance, did any of you pick a specific sin or sin in general as the thing that bothers you? Or were you thinking more along the lines of the examples I gave? But in all seriousness, does sin ever bother you? Your own sin? Your spouse's sin? The sin of your children? And how do you react to sin you see or know about? What is your response to rumors of sin? Each one of us sins every day without exception. In fact, the older I become, the more I realize how much my thoughts, my words, and my actions are full of sin. And this is nothing new you might be thinking, and you're right! But are we doing anything to correct it? Are we shoving our shortcomings and weaknesses to the back of our mind and ignoring them? Or are we dealing with our faults through prayer? Are we angry with them? We should be. This is our calling.

It's clear from scripture that there is such a thing as a holy or righteous anger. It's the wrath of God against any and all unrighteousness and ungodliness. Take for example the story of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram in Numbers 16, how the Lord in His anger towards their disobedience punished them by swallowing them up into the earth. Consider Moses' anger with the Israelites for worshiping the golden calf or Elijah's displeasure with the 450 prophets who worshiped Baal. The Lord killed them all! The Lord through Elijah was furious. Finally, do you recall how mad Jesus was when He found the temple being used for the buying and selling of animals during the Passover Feast? He dumped the tables over and drove the whole affair out with a whip. From these few examples, we can see that God and His people are not at all pleased with nor do they tolerate sin. Nowadays, it should be no different. We as Christians must reflect this same kind of love for God and hatred for sin. This is our calling.

Let's think about ourselves first. When our own thoughts turn carnal, when our own eyes look at books, or websites that they shouldn't see, or when our own ears listen to music or language they shouldn't hear, what do we do? Do we allow ourselves to continue in these sins day after day or do we finally get upset with ourselves? I hope there comes a time when you finally get mad at YOU. I hope we all stop, think and ask ourselves, "What am I doing? When am I ever going

to stop this?" Do we come to God daily in prayer asking Him for strength to flee?

If your husband or wife watches something sinful on TV, do you keep quiet and walk away? Do you watch with them? Or do you humbly tell him or her that they should watch something else? I know what Jesus would do.

When your son or daughter continuously comes home after his or her curfew, or insists on hanging out with friends when you have asked them to clean their room, finish their homework, or learn their catechism, do you punish them out of love for them and love for the 5th commandment? Or do you cut them some slack because they convince you it's not that big of a deal? Or do you let it go because you're too busy or too lazy to deal with it? I've done this before in my own classroom and I regret it. Laziness is part of our human nature. But lazy disciplining and rearing by teachers or parents is detrimental to the child's soul and spiritual welfare. Neither parents nor teachers do their children a favor when they let some of the "less important" rules slide, or when they allow children to talk disrespectfully. You know as well as I do what a child does when he knows he can get away with something: he does it again, or he tries to disobey in a slightly different way. That's our human nature. As parents and teachers we must be careful. If we truly love our children and students with God's love we will be angry with their sins. Because we know our children are born in sin, completely corrupt, and because we are concerned that "they work out their own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12) we will be disappointed with their most blatant sins and upset with their lesser sins as well. We need to show each other and our children our failings and teach them that they must be dealt with. Much grief may follow later in life if sins are not dealt with in the proper way. Children must be taught how to identify and face their own weaknesses. Neither we nor our children must hide or ignore our sins. Most importantly, we must pray with our children. They must be taught how to have a holy anger towards their sins, confess them before God, ask for forgiveness, and then show an attitude of sorrow as they humbly turn away from their sin. As adults, we know that this is a lifelong process. It's part of God's work of sanctification in each one of us. And our children must be taught this as well.

So if you're going to be angry at something, I hope it's sin that you're angry at. And if you're angry, be careful. While God's people sometimes need to be admonished in anger, this anger takes a great deal of humility and mercy on our part; whether it's holy anger with a spouse, a student, a child or a friend. And remember, the chief concern of our anger must be the love of God and the repentance of our fellow saints. Pray that God will give us grace so that genuine concern for our brother or sister is evident.

GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL GIFT: HIS WORD – Mrs. Rochelle Heyboer

Part of the eighth grade Bible curriculum is learning about the King James Version of the Bible. We spent almost eight weeks learning about the process of translation, the previous versions that influenced it, the martyrs who lost their lives trying to produce the earlier versions, and God's sovereignty over it all. We spent time teaching why the Protestant Reformed Churches (and Heritage Christian School) use the King James Version (KJV). Some of the strengths emphasized include being a word for word translation of the original languages and being based on the Received Text. Our course of study is based on the pamphlet "The King James Version of the Bible" by Rev. Steven Houck.

While we celebrate the KJV as a beautiful translation of God's Word to His people, we also do not limit His power in only using that translation to bring His people His Word. One of my students asked an excellent question, he said, "So is there a German version of the KJV?" This gave me a moment of pause. I explained to him and the rest of the class that this is not how translation works. For a Bible to be translated properly, the translators should go back to the original languages (as the KJV translators did), to not lose any of the meaning. For this reason it would not make sense to translate a Bible in German, French, Chinese, etc. from the KJV. This gave us time to reflect on the fact that God is using many other versions of the Bible in other countries to bring His people the gospel. Elizabeth Van Putten, whom I co-teach Bible with, mentioned that she has learned that it is very difficult to translate from the Hebrew and Greek to Chinese and convey the proper meaning, and the most widely used Chinese version today was not finished until the early 1900's. We have much to be thankful for in having His word in English for us to study and cherish.

We asked our students to give a short summary of what they learned in our studies. Here are some of the great answers we received.

- My takeaway was for me learning that God's providence brought the King James Version to our language so we could understand his inspired word. By one man that just suggested the new translation came a truly remarkable Bible. This is truly a gift from God. This is important I think because it makes us appreciate the Bible more because some countries don't even have the Bible in their own language. And like God said he will not come until all nations have heard his word and every man has heard the gospel. So we need to translate the Bible into more languages for more people to understand and read God's wonderful news to us. **By: Casey Karsemeyer**
- I learned many interesting things about how the KJV was made. My biggest take away was how God made the KJV translation happen. It was by His providence that He made it happen. He used men to translate other versions before the KJV, so the KJV translators could reference them. He preserved the Ancient copies of the

Old and New Testament. He worked in the hearts of the translators. Sometimes God used persecution to make a new translation like the Geneva Bible. The KJV is based on the Geneva Bible the most (19%). God made King James allow the people to make the KJV. Seeing God make His plan happen was the most interesting part.

By: Analise Pols

- The King James Version of the Bible was God's means of speaking to His people in England and all around the world in the 17th century. God uses His inspired Word as His means of speaking to His people in the modern day. God does not talk with His people like he used to before Jesus. We now have the Bible, God's own words which were inspired and written by men. God used many men to write the words which He spoke and were spoken to the people. Now we have many versions of the Bible translated from these manuscripts. God through his Providence made men copy these manuscripts and made men translate them into the modern day language. The translators of the KJV made a translation in which the people then and the people now could understand God's Word. **By: Graeson Decker**
- Throughout this whole year we have learned about the KJV Bible and how it came to be. The Bible is a book of great importance and truth. What I personally have taken mostly from these eight weeks, is that it's not any regular book with no meaning, but it is the Lord's true and Holy Bible. We can be absolutely sure that this Bible was word for word translated (formal equivalence). God's almighty providence caused and inspired these men to write His Holy scriptures. He made the translators to be knowledgeable, pious men of God. He made them love this translation and other translations, so much that people were willing to die for them. They made it possible that even today we could have God's Holy scriptures without the fear of being persecuted. This is why I know this is no normal Bible. I know people suffered greatly for it, and the Bible is the way we know more about God and His people, and He makes it very clear on how we are to live in it. God's unique Bible is instructions to us on how we should live and act as His holy believers. **By: Shelby Kuiper**
- The story of the making of the KJV is one of the most amazing stories I've heard. It shows God's providence over and over again. The section that amazed me most was the martyrs. They died for their faith. I imagined myself in that position and it made me worried. I don't think I could ever be brave enough to give my life for God, even if it is the right thing to do. It wasn't about the men's strength, it was God working in those men to have the strength and courage to persevere through the flames. If any of us are to live in the end times, we

should look up to these men. We may be tempted to give up our faith like Cranmer, but in the end the Holy Spirit will work in our hearts telling us it is the wrong thing to do. I pray that I will persevere through any persecution now and in the future. The story of the KJV can give any believer the faith to persevere by God's grace. **By: Lauryn Looyenga**

- I loved learning new stuff about the King James Version especially because I don't use it in the church I go to. I thought that this was a great chapter to learn about. My biggest take away from this lesson is that even when I sin or see people sin, I know that God will use it for his honor and glory. I can't wait for our next lesson and to learn more about the King James Version in my everyday life. I hope that everything I have learned so far will stick with me for the rest of my life. I also hope and pray that I can show others about the Bible and God's word by my actions, words and thoughts. **By: Elsie Bomers**
- My takeaway from the KJV unit is that God shows His providence in a various amount of ways, but in the end everything works for our good. This is my takeaway because we talked about this a couple different times. His providence, for example, when the first people started to translate the Holy Word of God into English, and were even willing to suffer and die so that the true church of God could have the Bible. God showed His providence here when He made sure that His children would be able to read His word for themselves, and not

listen to popes speaking false doctrine. Another example of God showing His providence is when King James was elected, because in God's plan, that was the king that would allow and would want the people to translate the Bible to a reverent and majestic language, unlike Queen (Bloody) Mary, who burned anyone who tried to translate or speak the true word of God. In closing this paragraph, God is sovereign over EVERYTHING and we must trust in Him, even when it seems like doing the right thing is really hard and it seems like nobody else is on your side.

By: Callie Dykstra

- The KJV was a work of God's amazing providence. The sacrifice to make this Holy Bible was great and we need to cherish it because of this. Many people died for this Bible, although not during the actual translation period. Many martyrs were mercilessly persecuted and sometimes killed to make their own English translations. These translations led to a reform that the Roman Catholic Church tirelessly tried to subdue. The work of these martyrs could not be stopped. Their work was like a forest fire before a dead grass plain. Many kings and queens tried to stop it but were unsuccessful. It swept the country no matter what through God's providence. Because of this the basis for the KJV was laid. All it took was a king/queen to support the new translation. God granted this through King James and a new era was born. We must cherish this because of the hardships gone through to make this Bible. **By: Levi Schimmel**

TEACH US TO PRAY – Mrs. Jodee VanOverloop

A few weeks ago, my second graders and I learned about some of the Messianic Psalms, as well as Psalms David wrote fleeing from his enemies and his transgressions of adultery, murder, and coveting. In these poems of prayer and praise to God, David reminds us that God's omnipresence and protection will comfort and strengthen us in our troubles and fears. Specifically, in Psalm 4, David instructs us to talk with God about his goodness as we are lying upon our beds in the night.

Not only is it important we talk with God in the night, but we are able to talk with Him at any time and anywhere. The Creator of heaven and earth will hear our prayers as we call upon Him. We learn that God is God, the I AM THAT I AM. We learn to spend time alone with our Father; to be still. We learn that God loves us so much that He sent His only

begotten Son to perfectly live and die for our sins. Prayer teaches us God's will is always good.

On the Bible test that followed these lessons and discussions, my second graders were given opportunity to share two things to bring to God in prayer. How precious it is when God's children put their trust and confidence in Him. In their own words...

*“You can talk about the Bible
You can talk about God's people”*

*“About his goodness
And about his kindness”*

*“How your day went
How much you love God”*

*"Your sins
Praying about alive people in hospital"*

*"His goodniss
His omnipresent"*

*"To cepe me saif
And to ptet me"*

*"How God is so powerful
How he hels the sick"*

*"About God's grace
How good God is God is verry verry good"*

*"Praise and Grace
People wo are having truble in there lives"*

"My skary thats wen I am in bed"

And in the car I pray cus I get carsik a lat"

*"What God gave you
For his graittness"*

*"God grace and his mursy and the love that God gave me
and my family"*

*"That God is our goodness
And that Jesus died on the cross and saved us from our sins"*

*"How my day went
To help me in all that I do"*

*"His goodness
His glory"*

*"Thank him for your food an water
Asck him to take awa are sins"*

THANKFUL DELIGHT IN THE LORD – Mr. Dan VanDyke

If I told you that I heard of a man who lost everything he owned, you would assume that you were about to hear a pretty tragic story. However, Jesus told a parable of this man, and it's anything but a tragedy. Matthew 13:44 recounts this very short parable: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."

Why was this man willing to sell ALL that he had? He wasn't looking to get a crop from that field. He wasn't looking to please his wife. He wasn't afraid of the seller or anyone else. Jesus said that he sold all that he had for one reason: for JOY. The treasure he had found far outweighed all other possessions or considerations.

In this season of giving thanks, is JOY at the root of your gratitude? This man's "sacrifice" was no sacrifice at all. He had found a treasure far beyond the value of anything he previously owned. We know that Christ calls us to joy, and He calls us to obedience, but what we too often forget is that the joy must come first or the obedience is not even truly obedience. Do we, as parents, delight in joyless obedience -- mere compliance -- from our children? When we ask them to clean their room, and they storm off in a huff, slamming the door and various articles into any available drawer or door, do we consider that true obedience? How often is our obedience to God very similar to our children's? Isaiah 1:11-14 speaks of God's displeasure at this sort of empty obedience: "...Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me..."

So how do we find such joy which drives true obedience? How do we grasp the joy of the treasure that is already ours? First, we must acknowledge why this joy is so difficult to hold onto. This joy is a new thing in us - a new man. Naturally, we are haters of God. Therefore, delighting in selfish trinkets is what comes most naturally to us. Becoming lovers of God, delighting in His fellowship, is a joy that is new even to us who are Christians from birth. Now God could have implanted full joy in every one of His children at birth, but that isn't the best way. It isn't the way that gives His grace and the power of His love the most glory. The way He is most magnified is when we, miserable haters of God, are brought gradually but surely to joy in the God who saved us to delight in Him. He, in all His glorious Triune beauty, is both the Giver of thankful joy as well as the Gift for which we are joyfully thankful.

Knowing this joy takes constant, intentional, Spirit-filled effort on our part. God designed His people to be active participants in the process of holy thanksgiving. Exercise your faith. Work out your salvation. Rejoice IN THE LORD always. Purposefully whip your mind into knowing God better, studying His Word more, praying for more wisdom, and understanding His work in your life better. Labor to be more and more thankful for the wonder of HIM! Yes, He has done so much for us in our salvation story and in providing our daily needs, but let our greatest delight, our greatest joy, our greatest thanksgiving be for the gift of Himself. May He help us truly to love the Lord our God with ALL our heart, soul, mind, and strength. That's the heart of thanksgiving.

OUR STUDENTS' BEST DAY! – Mrs. Deb Altana

Psalm 78: 1-7

1. Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to words of my mouth.
2. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:
3. Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.
4. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.
5. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them know to their children:
6. That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:
7. That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

What do you suppose are some of the best days at school for our children? You may think of Field Day or Mini-Olympics or perhaps the day the Junior High goes bowling all afternoon. I believe Grandparent's Day rates pretty highly as one of the students' favorite days. As the day approaches, the children get more and more excited to see their grandparents at school in their classrooms. The children love to show their grandparents what special project they might have prepared especially for this day, or simply to show them where their classroom is and where their own work is hanging on the walls.

However, it's the relationship between grandparents and their grandchildren that is indeed a precious treasure. The joy of this day is not only seen in the students, but also in the grandparents as they make their way to the classrooms to visit. The covenant made by our LORD many years ago with Abraham and his seed is clearly evident on Grandparents Day. Psalm 78 states several times in these verses that the command of God is to continue the blessing of instruction in His Word: fathers must teach their children the ways of the

LORD so that they can, in turn, teach their children the wisdom and wonders of our Great God.

What is the purpose of continuing this tradition of Grandparents Day in light of Psalm 78? Verse four tells us to show our children the praises of the LORD, His strength as our rock, and His wonderful works in creation and in the salvation He has given us through His dear son, Jesus Christ. Verse seven continues this thought by stating that our children and children's children may set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments. To see the fulfillment of this in front of our eyes is one of the greatest blessings our staff at Heritage experiences. The love for each other is evidenced in the smiles and joy of the grandchildren and their grandparents working together on the activities of our day.

In conclusion, let us as staff at Heritage Christian and as parents of students here encourage our children to spend quality time talking and interacting with their grandparents. Provide these opportunities for your children as often as possible. Our grandparents are one of the many good gifts from our Heavenly Father!

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT: INCLUSIVE, FLEXIBLE AND EFFECTIVE – Mr. Mike Noorman

Our staff began the school year thinking about ways classroom teachers and educational support staff can promote an inclusive environment for students in providing flexible and effective instruction and support. With that in mind, our K-5 classes are scheduling a time dedicated for that type of instruction.

How does this look? In the past, the DC or Educational Support staff would typically pull individuals or groups of students out of the classroom during devotions, singing, or some non-instructional time. As mentioned above, we are now working to provide instructional support during times that are scheduled for this type of support. This year, we are

calling one of these times, RTI Time. "RTI" stands for Response to Intervention. This support time is directed by your child's teacher in collaboration with the DC teachers and other support staff, who are working alongside each other using small groups of students more often than in past years.

This approach is flexible. It is likely that the students who receive support will change throughout the year based on what is being taught, a student's individual learning needs, and the level of progress that students make in response to additional instruction. Students might receive extra practice on a particular skill or concept in math or reading, or they

could participate in an instructional intervention as part of a group.

This approach is effective! It is provided by different members of the support team or by the classroom teacher themselves. Working collaboratively gives more teachers the chance to notice and reach more students. This instructional support is not only geared towards specific students who qualify for the support, but it is something that any student can receive based on what the teacher is seeing in the classroom. They can use academic screenings such as the DIBELS screening, information from the MAP testing results, and other teacher-created means to identify a student's need

for support. This information is used to target areas of need and design effective interventions.

This approach is inclusive! As in the past, we continue to work with students in the early grades to give them extra help when they need it. With an inclusive mindset, teachers begin with the knowledge that everyone is different and responds differently to our efforts; teachers and students are created by our Creator with a unique mind and different needs. When we view our instruction within an inclusive environment, our approach within our school can effectively mirror the way Christ loves and leads us as unique members of His body to a clearer view of how we all belong in Him.

WISDOM FOR OUR TIMES - A BOOK REVIEW – Mrs. Sue Looyenga

Recently I was blessed to attend virtually the annual conference of the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCEF), an organization which provides biblical, Reformed education, training, and resources to counselors, pastors, teachers, and church members. This year's theme was *The Way of Wisdom*, an excellent and appropriate theme for reflection as our world continues its plunge into moral decline and anti-Christian sentiment. The way of the wise versus the way of the fool was contrasted primarily through the wisdom literature of the Bible, but many other scriptural passages were cited as applications were made to numerous life situations in which wisdom is critical in leading others through struggles and pain in this life.

Over the past few years I have come to know and respect the spoken and written wisdom of Julie Lowe, one of the key speakers for this conference. She is a licensed professional counselor and faculty member at CCEF, an affiliate of Westminster Theological Seminary (WTS), and teaches in the WTS Masters in Counseling program as well. For over 20 years Lowe has worked with children who have suffered mistreatment and abuse in their young lives, and she is highly regarded by her colleagues for her knowledge and godly compassion as she brings comfort and hope to children she counsels in the name of Jesus Christ. She and her husband, Greg, are adoptive parents who also serve as foster parents and have six children in their family.

At the time of this conference, *Safeguards: Shielding our Homes and Equipping our Kids*, had just been released by New Growth Press. I have recently read it and highly recommend it to parents, grandparents, teachers, and all who work with children as caregivers in the context of the Christian community - church, home, and school. In the forward to Lowe's book, her colleague at Westminster, Dr. Paul David Tripp, speaks of the role of a parent as an ambassador to children by a God Who "makes his invisible

authority visible by sending parents to oversee their children...who makes his invisible wisdom available by sending parents to impart His wisdom to them... and who makes his invisible guardianship visible by sending parents to children who need to be guarded and protected". Tripp continues by describing the beliefs that parents and caregivers need to motivate them daily in this role - beliefs that are rooted in God's Word: 1) that God is wise and good; 2) that we never minimize the dangers of life in this sin-broken world; and 3) because God's ways are always right and we live in in this evil and fallen world, "*the wisdom of discernment is a vital commitment and skill*" (emphasis-SL). He goes on to express that this is why he loves and recommends Lowe's book, remarking that he knows of "no other book that does what this one does". I heartily agree.

I cannot express how enlightening this book was to read in its knowledgeable, God-centered approach to addressing the unique dangers that threaten our children and young people in this age. Whether temptations and sin approach by means of technology, the influence of peers,

predators in the culture that surrounds us, or the sinful nature that lies within, Lowe's book addresses each with sound knowledge and frankness about the sin and its character, carefully applying biblical wisdom to teach both children and young adults to discern the danger and exercise the discretion needed to deal with it in age-appropriate levels of instruction.

Lowe avoids using Scripture verses wrapped in trite comments as "quick fixes" to address evil situations. From early on in this book she warns her readers, "It is incomplete to just say to children: 'Yes, the world is not safe, and you must trust God'". She insists that the task of parents and caregivers is to "educate and prepare (them) to engage this world around them" as well as "train and equip them with tools to navigate life and all it will throw at them"(13). She

takes Tripp's idea of parents as ambassadors seriously and gives sound, practical advice for teaching children how to live in this sinful world without fear and anxiety because they know what evil looks like, how to face it wisely, and to whom they can go in various dangerous situations. She acknowledges that we cannot protect our children from every kind of traumatic situation they may find themselves in, but we can teach them that when they have done what they can to protect themselves, they may safely rely on the God Who loves them and promises to be with them always.

Safeguards is comprehensive in its scope and is divided into three parts. Part One: *Wisdom- the Foundation for Equipping Children with Safety Skills*, uses three chapters to introduce nine dangers unique to children and young people in today's world. She then addresses the four ways those dangers present themselves in ways that can hurt children. The author makes strong arguments against the tendency to react in two unhelpful and detrimental ways to deal with threats that our children face : wasting time and energy in worry and anxiety for them, or simply embracing denial and brushing off the danger to them. She urges adults instead to teach useful safety skills and raise "equipped kids, not fearful kids".

In Part Two: *Equipping Children with Safety Skills*, Lowe presents startling statistics for child abuse in our day to show its pervasiveness and the realities that nearly 70% of reported abuse occurs before the age of 17; in 90% of reported cases of child sexual abuse, children had been victimized by someone they knew well; and states the likelihood that you as a parent will be targeted in order for the perpetrator to gain your trust. The author does not back away from presenting an accurate portrayal of the ugliness of sin, corrupted desire, and deception, but all the while shows the reality of sinful human nature and how even God's people can be enticed into sin by the devil as he uses the tools available in our culture to blind and deceive a perpetrator and lead him or her to commit terrible sins. Lowe accurately provides warning signs parents and children need to watch for and practical precautions meant to decrease children's vulnerability to predators. The 11 chapters in this section help parents to recognize and protect their children in situations of child abuse, teach kids to evaluate others' behavior, use role play to disciple children in dealing with

various situations of spiritual or physical danger, train them to use technology wisely, deal with bullying, and even equip them in case they get lost in a familiar or unfamiliar place. Three of these eleven chapters deal with wisdom issues in the situations of sleepovers, childcare situations, using safe words, and family safety plans. The final chapter deals with how to react ourselves and mentor children to react when violence touches our lives in a sudden, unexpected form.

Finally, Part Three: *Equipping Teenagers and Young Adults with Safety Skills* includes ten chapters to communicate with older children about struggles and dangers they may face. Six of these get to the heart of the particular relational needs of teenagers: their struggles with comparison, peer pressure, and treating others respectfully, and the sins that may tempt them when they are dating, using technology, exposed to pornography or sexting, alcohol, drugs, and/or smoking/vaping. One chapter speaks to navigation of mental health problems in teenagers and young adults. Two more deal with safety skills- those necessary for growing independence , and those having to do with online dating, giving consent to share personal information with a person one has met, and navigating campus life in general. This was the only chapter that I struggled with, because I don't believe online dating, even using so-called "Christian" dating services, is safe. I have read of predators also operating through these. All the same, the reality that this *does* happen on or off campuses when young people desire to date, but haven't met someone at a suitable place for Christians to meet, should be addressed. Young adults need to be warned about potential vulnerability on these sites.

The title of the last chapter of this worthwhile book reminds us that *God is our Refuge, Strength, and Very Present Help in Trouble*. At times God's children make unwise decisions despite warnings, or become victims at a time of vulnerability, and Lowe assists parents to deal wisely with them by applying God's Word of wisdom to our own reactions and the decisions that must come as we grieve, mourn, and struggle with the consequences of their choices, or of others' sin against them. The book ends as it began with the precious promise of Psalm 4:8, that we can lie down in peace and sleep, for it is the Lord who keeps us in safety.

Evening of Praise - this coming Saturday, November 26 – 7 PM

General admission tickets for the concert at the Grandville High School auditorium can be purchased **until tomorrow afternoon at 3:45 PM**. You may purchase them in person in the main office at school, or you can reserve a ticket and pay at the door by calling or emailing school (616-669-1773/receptionist@hchr.org). The \$15 ticket covers the cost of the concert and the dessert reception following the concert. Proceeds go to the Heritage Christian School Foundation.

REMAINING 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

November 24 & 25, 2022 - Thanksgiving Break
December 23 - January 2, 2023 - Christmas Break
January 16-20, 2023 – MAP testing, grades 3-8
February 1 & 2, 2023 – Parent Teacher Conferences
February 17, 2023 - Mid-Winter Break
February 23, 2023 – 5-8th Grade Band and Choir Concert
March 4, 2023 – Spring Clothing & Toy Sale
March 31 – April 7, 2023 - Spring Break
May 8-12, 2023 - MAP testing, grades 3-8
May 10, 2023 – Elementary Music Program, grades 1-2
May 12, 2023 – Kindergarten Program
May 16, 2023 – 5-8th Grade Band and Choir Concert
May 22, 2023 – All Schools Band Concert
May 29, 2023 – Memorial Day Break
May 31, 2023 – Last day of school (1/2 day)
May 31, 2023 – Graduation

The **2023-2024 school year calendar** will be approved
by the Board tomorrow evening, Lord willing.

We will email it out once it has been approved.