

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION ON A FOUNDATION OF BIBLICAL TRUTH

*“We will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.” Psalm 78:4*



Greetings Parents!

Winter 2013

The holidays are over and we are already marking off our calendars the first month of 2013. Not only is time slipping away but society in general seems to continue slipping in a downward spiral. As Christians we do not look to a post-modern, post-Christian culture to find truth, we look to God and His Word to guide us.

Recently I was asked to critique a book for publication. The author was stressing the need for adults and children to use catechisms as a means of bringing the truth of God's Word into their lives. In speaking about the pilgrims and their journey across the Atlantic on the Mayflower he stated the following:



During the journey, the pilgrims covenanted together to form a means for governing their new settlement. The “Mayflower Compact,” named after their ship, has been called “the world’s first written constitution.” It gave the pilgrims the written definition and stability they needed to endure through the difficult trials that awaited them in the New World.

Whether or not we sail across troubled seas, Christians are all pilgrims. And one of the great needs in the church today is for simple, but not simplistic, definition [of what we believe]. We Christian sojourners are a motley crew of travelers with diverse backgrounds and temperaments. We need to be reminded that we have a common destination. And we need written definition and stability to guide us there.

For thousands of years, travelers have been guided on their journey by focusing on a fixed point in the night sky: the North Star. While other stars appear to shift with the passing of time, the North Star remains anchored in the same position. This celestial gift allowed people to know *where they were* and *where they needed to go*.



This is why we are committed to teaching the Children's Catechism and Westminster Shorter Catechism. We believe they accurately summarize the Bible and provide the same kind of clarity to guide us on our journey as the North Star did the pilgrims.

The Christian Education program at Christ Presbyterian Church endeavors to give the children “a fixed point” of reference to guide them through the changing values of society. We are thankful God has given us a “North Star” that not only guides us but tells us who God is, who we are, and His plan for salvation. Maureen Bradley, Children's Ministry

Not only are there opportunities to learn God's Word through the teaching ministries at Christ Presbyterian Church, we also have a wonderful children's library located in Room #1 (off the center hallway). Please take a minute to see some highlighted books from this library and a book review of the latest edition to it.



An encouraging trend in Christian children's literature is the publication of the "Christian Biographies for Young Readers" series published by Reformation Heritage. We have recently added to our children's library all five books in this new series: John Calvin, Augustine, Athanasius, John Owen, and Lady Jane Grey.

Lady Jane Grey

Reviewed by Rev. William Boekestein Covenant Reformed Church (URCNA)

The first chapter of Simonetta Carr's latest, *Lady Jane Grey*, seems to introduce a run-of-the-mill, happy-ending, likable fairy-tale. As a first cousin (once removed) of England's king Edward VI, young Jane Grey was "Raised to Be Queen." As a child she received the best education and met hosts of interesting people. But as the remaining chapter titles suggest ("Times of Trouble," "A Heavy Crown," "Prisoner," "Ready to Die"), Jane's life, like many true stories had an inconvenient ending. By modern standards Jane didn't live to see adulthood.

That's why I applaud this publication. Jane's tragic life serves as a distilled version of the life of every Christian pilgrim. One of the best gifts we can give our children is the reality check that the Christian life is hard. The Apostle Peter reminds the elect exiles of Asia Minor that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by their brotherhood throughout the world (1 Peter 5:9).

The story of Lady Jane's brief life is redeemed by her resolute trust in the God who promises that all his children will live happily ever after. In God's own words, "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you" (v. 10). This sixteenth century real-life parable of salvation through suffering is powerfully driven home by Matt Abraxas' gritty artwork which fits perfectly with the story.

I love this story and so do my kids. We love it in the same way we love a sweaty hike up a mountain, a handful of semi-sweet granola, or a long car ride that brings us to grandma's house. It is not fun like an instant sugar buzz. But it is rewarding. We need more well-written, engaging, beautifully illustrated true stories that wake our children up from the cuddly, schmaltzy stuff typically found in elementary kids' backpacks. *Lady Jane Grey* is just such a story.