

recognized standards for that size school. Schools must obtain whatever legal permits are required in that community for use of the buildings as a school.

Schools held in existing buildings which were not designed for school use have problems. Some of these problems can be resolved, others cannot. It is often difficult to operate a school in facilities not designed for children's use.

Some churches are building their Christian education facilities according to school specifications. Facilities are shared by the school and by the church, thus gaining efficient use of the property. This is an encouraging trend. In this approach, care must be taken to provide proper outdoor play areas.

When schools build new facilities, the recognized planning principle is this: determine the school's program, then design the plant for that program.

Equipment for Christian schools should be sufficient in variety, quantity, and quality for the school to accomplish its stated objectives. Schools must achieve the financial stability required for the annual purchase of equipment and supplies. Because a school is Christian does not mean that it can get by with inadequate buildings, insufficient equipment, or sparse supplies. There is a relationship between facilities, equipment, and the quality of education offered by a school, whether or not that school is Christian.

## ROLE OF THE CHURCH

The school sees its work as supplemental to the evangelical church, but the church does not often feel that way about the school. This is unfortunate and may be due to the following reasons: (1) the school may attract money away from the church; (2) division may occur in the church because of the school; (3) there may be misunderstanding of the philosophy and objectives of the school.

The role of the church in a church-related school is clearly illustrated in the Norfolk (Va.) Christian School, which is sponsored by the Tabernacle Church. Church membership and fellowship depend on relationship and fellowship with Christ, not on enrollment in that church's school. The Tabernacle Church teaches the sovereignty of God over every aspect of life, including education, and teaches Christian family living, with the result that many parents send their children to the school. The church and the school work harmoniously in their programs for the growth of the students and of the parents.

The role of the church to the other kinds of Christian schools includes the following: (1) prayer; (2) financial help; (3) student enrollment; (4) encouragement and understanding.

Regardless of organizational structure, all Christian schools are serving within the Body of Christ, His church. It should be recognized that the whole Body of Christ profits when any child or young person receives an education in which Jesus Christ is central. Believers do not choose a church home on the basis of the preacher's degree, the architecture, or the equipment of the