

• perspective

Newsletter of the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship
Vol. 8, No. 2 March/April, 1974.

A THOUSAND ATTEND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

by Tom Malcolm

As the last strains of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" echoed through the cathedral-like sanctuary of Graystone United Presbyterian Church, the Institute's Dr. Bernard Zylstra mounted the speaker's platform. For the next hour he developed "A Critique of Contemporary Education" which kicked off the weekend conference in Indiana, Pennsylvania. The AACCS/ICS co-operated with Graystone Church and several Christian organizations in the Western Pennsylvania area (Coalition for Christian Outreach, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Ligonier Valley Study Center, Pittsburgh Power and Light Company) to bring 1,000 evangelical Christians together around the question of Christian education. The town of Indiana, located in the mountains to the north east of Pittsburgh, provided a peaceful setting for some serious reflection about the serious question, namely, the need for a Christian day-school movement in the Mideastern U.S.A. in light of a scriptural view of education and the non-alternative provided by the public school system.



Dr. Pete Steen during his Saturday keynote address.

Dr. Zylstra made it clear that secular humanism masquerades under the cloak of "religious neutrality". It announces itself as "public philosophy" which can be supported by anyone "regardless of religious conviction". It is the task of Christians at every level of the educational structure to unmask this religion and show it up for what it really is. The official public school propagation of the secular faith means that Christians are being denied the right to have their children educated in the ways of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must be ready--even now beginning--

to establish alternative primary and secondary schools and to fight for the right to have our tax monies go to the support of a Christian school system.

Before Dr. Zylstra's speech had a chance to get cold, the various themes which he had introduced were picked up and probed in depth at a number of workshops. Dr. Peter Steen of the Coalition for Christian Outreach (a college campus ministry organization) focused upon the scientific faith behind secular education. Dr. Zylstra caught his breath in time to lead a workshop on the role of the Christian teacher in the public school. Dr. Al Wolters of the AACCS placed the question of a need for Christian schools within the broader context of a total Christian life style. Mr. Wayne Brauning introduced the work of the Philadelphia Association for Christian Schools in the ghettos of Philadelphia and is working right now to expand that school system. Mr. Art Bouwers of S.W.A.P. (an organization dedicated to rediscovering the basics in Christian living) probed the "assembly-line" theory of secular education which looks upon children's minds as "raw material" which needs to be shaped and molded according to the scientific model. And Rex Downie, Attorney at Law, acquainted the conferees with the progress of a civil action backed by Christians for Educational Justice (CEJ) which he filed in the U.S. District Court, on behalf of several Christian parents. The suit, filed on October 31, 1973, alleges that the parents' "religious freedom is being violated by being compelled under state law to support a state school system which has established the religion of secular humanism as its main philosophy". The suit seeks a court order to disburse education taxes without discriminating against parents who choose a non-state school.

One of the questions which those first few hours of the conference had raised was, "What might a Christian school be like?" Dr. Arnold DeGraaff of the ICS tackled that question in the second major speech of the conference on Saturday morning. In "A Christian Perspective for Education", DeGraaff looked at curriculum in the Christian school. Beginning with the Scriptures, he presented a carefully prepared biblical view of education as "nurture"--bringing up a child to walk in the ways of the Lord. From the Scriptures he moved to general guidelines for curriculum development, and then to concrete examples.



Pete Steen holds forth on the scientism behind secular education.

The high point of Dr. DeGraaff's speech was a 20-minute section in which he compared the way in which humanist and Christian schools would teach children about the weather. Using examples from text books he showed how the secular definition of weather as a purely physical

phenomenon reduces a child's appreciation of weather to what he is taught in science class. The child is led to believe that once he has learned the physical laws which "govern" the winds, rains, and seasons he knows all there is to know about weather.

A Christian approach to the topic begins with the weather as a creature of the Lord. It does not close weather up in the physical compartment of a piecemeal world, but sees how God has made the weather to fit into plant, animal and human life. The effect of weather on human emotions, for example, is no accidental sidelight to what is really something physical. No, it is a real dimension to something which is a part of God's whole creation. Much of the material for his example came from Joy in Learning, a Christian elementary school curriculum published by the Curriculum Development Centre in Toronto. When DeGraaff concluded his speech, few realized that they had been listening for almost 80 minutes.



Dr. DeGraaff leading a conference workshop.

On Saturday afternoon the workshops were repeated with an additional session on authority and discipline in the Christian school led by Dr. DeGraaff.

Dr. Peter Steen brought the day's session to a close with the final major address of the conference on "Establishing Alternative Schools". Dr. Steen said that Christians will never be able to move into the public arenas of life without men and women who have been educated to approach issues from a Christian perspective. He spoke at length to the fears expressed by many of those persons he encounters on his travels as a Christian perspectives teacher that such a school movement is impossible to realize. Those fears can only be overcome when Christians recapture the kind of zeal for doing the Lord's work that Jehu had in the Old Testament, and rediscover the joy of the Lord as the strengthening power known by the exiles in Ezra and Nehemiah's day.

Dr. Steen announced the first concrete step to be taken beyond the Indiana conference toward the establishment of a Christian day school movement--the formation of the Mideast Christian Public Education Association. This organization will initially work to foster a Christian educational consciousness in the mideastern U.S. by publishing a newsletter, getting Christian teachers in touch with one another and acquainting them with the Christian school system in Ontario.

The Indiana conference was an unqualified success. A clue to the reason for this success was revealed at the closing meeting. There conferees were given a chance to ask questions of the speakers, workshop leaders and a representative from a newly formed Christian school in Erie,

Pennsylvania. The kinds of questions asked indicated that the Holy Spirit had convicted the hearts of many in attendance of the need for Christian education long before there was an Indiana conference. The seeds sown that conference weekend had fallen on fertile ground.

*** Cassettes of all the speeches and workshops are available from Thompson Tapes, Stahlstown, Pennsylvania.*

Pete Steen fosters ties between "Pittsburgh" and "Toronto"

The Indiana conference on education, which proved to be such a great success, was in a sense the symbol of the coming together and co-operation which has been growing in the past year or two between the AACCS/ICS and a number of Christian renewal groups in western Pennsylvania, especially the Coalition for Christian Outreach, an organization which sponsors a Christian ministry on college campuses. An important link in this coming together has been Pete Steen, one of the 27 full time staff of the Coalition, who are active on nineteen campuses. Pete, who has a doctorate in theology from Westminster Seminary, and many years' experience as a college philosophy professor, has a unique position as a travelling lecturer at many of the colleges of western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. As a long-time member and supporter of the AACCS, Pete has done wonders, since joining the Coalition two years ago, both in acquainting many students with the work of the AACCS and in making the AACCS aware of the excellent work which he and the Coalition are doing for students in their area.

As an example of the kind of work Pete is doing for the Coalition, consider the weekly schedule he is maintaining during the current semester:

Monday

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. | A course on Christian education at the University of Indiana, Indiana, Pa. (with Mame Philips of the Coalition). |
| 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. | A Christian Perspectives (philosophy) course at the University of Indiana. |
| 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. | A course on biblical prophecy at the University of Indiana. |

Tuesday

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. | A Christian Perspectives course at Grove City College, Grove City, Pa. |
| 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. | A Perspectives course near Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa. |

Wednesday

- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Perspectives course at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio.
- 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. A Bible course at Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio.

Thursday

- 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. A course in ancient philosophy at 129 S. Graham Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. A Perspectives course at the Bellfield Presbyterian Church on Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh.
- 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. A Perspectives course at Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa.

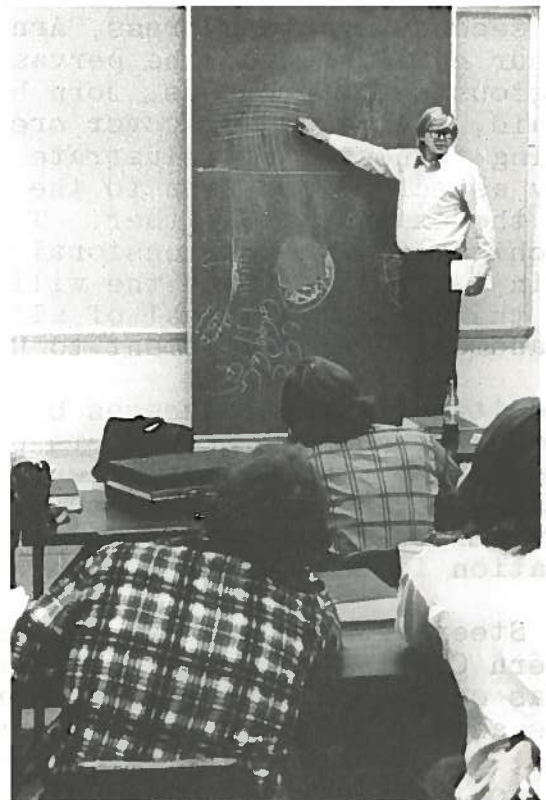
Friday

- 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. A course in modern theology (using as text S.U. Zuidema's Communication and Confrontation) at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa.
- 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. A Bible course at Allegheny College (also attended by students of nearby Edinboro College).

If we calculate correctly, this adds up to 12 courses and no less than 24 hours of teaching every week. That doesn't include the driving time involved in covering eight different places in two states every week.

Many readers of Perspective will remember the announcement, about a year ago, that Pete had been struck by Hodgkin's Disease. We know that many people earnestly prayed that he would not be struck down, both for his own sake and for the sake of the powerful testimony to the completeness of Christ's sovereignty which he is able to give in his work. It is clear from the above schedule that God has heard those prayers; the dread disease has been arrested and has in all likelihood been stopped for good. There is certainly no indication that Pete has lost any of his energy and zeal for his work.

Pete's work should be seen in the context, not only of the Coalition for Christian Outreach, but of the whole revival of active evangelical Christianity which has been taking place in the Pittsburgh area in recent years.



These include other renewal groups like the Pittsburgh Offensive, the Pittsburgh Experiment (parent of the Coalition), S.W.A.P., Ligonier Valley Study Center, Covenant Community Services, the local divisions of InterVarsity and Young Life, as well as individual congregations in and around Pittsburgh.

The spirit of mutual recognition and co-operation between 'Toronto' and 'Pittsburgh' which took visible shape in the Indiana Education Conference, contains within itself the seeds of great things to come. We pray that God may give the increase.

Iowa City conference

by Susan Damon

In its educational system, a community discloses its deepest inner identity, values and religious presuppositions, keynote speaker H. Evan Runner told those of us who attended the Iowa City Study Conference. The theme of the conference, held February 1 through 3, was Christian education. The current crisis in American education, Runner said, reflects a basic uncertainty about the nature of reality, man and the direction of culture. He then elaborated on the influence of John Dewey upon modern education, reflected, for example, in the tendency to reduce everything to process.

In a second keynote address, Arnold DeGraaff urged us to save ourselves and our children from the pervasive spirit of scientism that makes us religious schizophrenics, torn between Christ and scientism. We must, he said, once again discover creation in its many-faceted beauty and meaning-fulness. To illustrate how the Christian teacher must present every aspect of creation to the child multidimensionally, DeGraaff used the example of weather. To open up every concrete phenomenon to the child in a multidimensional way is to have him know concretely and in daily experience the will and love of God. And this is, after all, the content and goal of all instruction; love for God and His commandments and commitment to His will.

In addition to the addresses by DeGraaff and Runner, we attended various workshops. Al Wolters presented "Historical Perspectives on Christian Counter-Culture", suggesting that Christian education makes for a different kind of culture. In fact, it is precisely because of its wider cultural-historical implications that the idea of Christian education is such an explosive one.

Pete Steen, speaking about "False Prophets Who Set the Direction for Western Culture in Education", paraphrased Christ's Gospel uniquely and as only Pete can do. He decried "killjoy spirits", who instill in us a fear of everything from snakes to girls and boys to tweetie birds, and have nothing but words of discouragement for those who seek to implement a radical vision of obedience to Christ.

In a workshop on the subject, "A Radical Break with 'Public' School Curriculum", Professor Geraldine Steensma from Covenant College shared with us some exciting and very practical insights she has gained from her teaching experience. She stressed the need for integration of the disciplines, just as God's creation itself is so beautifully inter-related.

At the workshop, "Dollar Squeeze on Non-State Education: Legal Redress", attorney Rex Downie spotlighted key court decisions in the continuing struggle for a truly public, i.e., pluralistic educational system, in which religious differences are recognized and allowed to function.

As an additional treat, we all enjoyed the rather informal piano-vocal concerts by James Ward.

Though the conference was excellent in communicating the fundamental elements of a radical vision of Christianity and total, life-absorbing commitment to Christ, many in attendance began to feel and express to one another the need for conferences where those well-grounded in basic concepts can begin working at a more advanced level, to struggle more deeply with the academic and theoretical problems arising from a radical commitment to Christian scholarship in a world that rejects the validity of Christianity. This is something about which we must think and pray together, and then begin to plan and act concretely, so that we may serve our Lord more fully.

*** Sue Damon is a junior at Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa.*

Campus ministry grows

After giving a workshop at the Iowa City conference, Educational Director Al Wolters travelled south to Lawrence, Kansas, where he visited former Institute student Tom Forman and his wife (the former Nancy VanderSchaaf of Brampton, Ontario) who are engaged in a campus ministry at Kansas University. He reports:

"Tom seems to be putting his three-and-a-half years of Institute study to good use. When he arrived in Lawrence last summer, he immediately plunged into the organization of a two-week summer training workshop, and set about winning, in his own quiet way, the confidence of the people in his community.



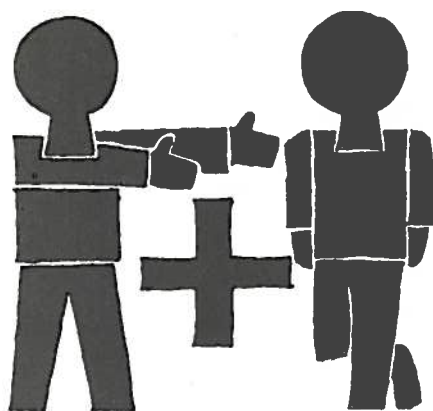
Tom & Nancy Work Together
at Kansas University.

Last semester saw him give a course in biblical hermeneutics (largely based on his work in Biblical Prolegomena at the Institute) and this semester, in the context of the informal "free university" on the Kansas University campus, he is giving a course (together with friend and co-worker, Stan Cox) on "Biblical Prophecy", in which he plans to present a reformed and reformational view of the Kingdom as an alternative to the world-flight eschatologies current among many Christian students. For next summer Tom again has plans for a summer training program, in which he intends to pay special attention to the areas of evangelism, Christian education and politics.

Inevitably, the first months of their work confronted them with setbacks and frustrations, and it sometimes seemed difficult to get a foothold on the large state university campus. But now their faithful perseverance, backed by the communal encouragement of their supporting church, is beginning to see fruit. Gradually, it seems, Tom is becoming known and his views respected, both by Christian students and by other evangelical Christian workers on campus. New possibilities for mutual support and co-operation with different Christian groups are beginning to open up and add excitement to plans for the future.

Partially supported by a small but active Reformed Presbyterian (Covenanter) congregation, Tom and Nancy are dependent for most of their income on the pledged contributions of friends and supporters. Though their budget is often tight, they are settling in for the long haul, convinced that Tom's Toronto studies will continue to bear fruit in their challenging ministry on the secular campus."

Remember, Everyone One



As you're reading this Perspective and especially some of the news items on pages 20 & 21, are you also feeling the excitement that we feel? Your Institute professors are invited for many and various speaking engagements, often sharing with hundreds of students and other professors some of their Christian insight. The Christian academic work is of great importance to many other thousands of students. The sense of belonging together, standing side by side as servants of the Lord, pervades many of the contacts made.

The important thing in promoting this kind of perspective is standing together. It is crucial for the work of the AACs/ICS that we have a broad and stable base in order to be able to reach out. It is for this reason that we urge every member to actively look for opportunities to add one more member to our ranks. The more numbers we can attract, the higher we can raise the banner of God's name in scholarship.

Memo to: AACS supporters

From: Linda Leenders, bookkeeper

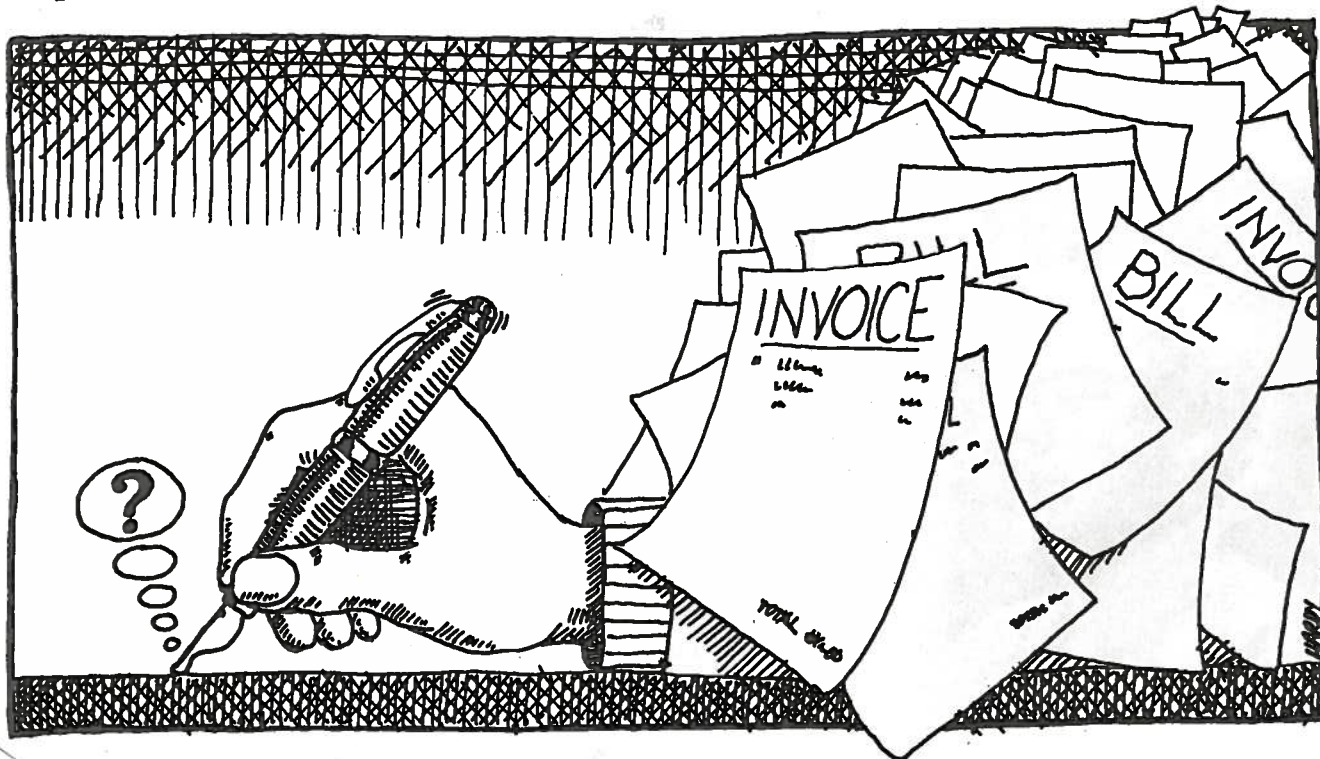
Sometimes I hardly know what's hit me. My January vision of a bright and rosy future has been buried under a \$10,000 avalanche of February and March bills.

How can we pinpoint the problem areas? Do we have too many professors to pay each month? If so, who should be dropped first--Dr. Seerveld? Dr. DeGraaff? or Dr. Zylstra? Another item is all the Discovery lecturing. We've received over twenty different airline bills in the past two months. Who should be cut off the map first--Alberta? B.C.? or Michigan?

Or maybe we should not have video-taped Discovery for other communities. Or maybe we should not have sent out 4,000 packets to acquaint Christian colleges and educational leaders with the study opportunities at the Institute. Or maybe we should stop planning the summer seminars, or the conferences, or the curriculum work. We should at least save the rising paper costs and never tell another person what our goals are, nor ever ask another person to donate to our work.

We do not intend, or course, to cut back any of these people or activities that minister to those eager to learn more about serving the Lord. We trust God will provide for work that helps build His Kingdom of abundant life.

But we are faced this month with an overwhelming amount of expenses and we did have to borrow almost \$5,000 more to pay the March salaries. So please send in your 1974 gifts, pledges and membership dues.



John Olthuis reports

MINISTERS AND AACS/ICS STAFF ATTEND RETREAT

On January 28 & 29 seven Metro Toronto Christian Reformed ministers and seven AACS/ICS staff members retreated to the country for fellowship and discussion. Two days of peeling potatoes, washing dishes and walking together in the winter woods provided the relaxed atmosphere needed for frank and serious discussion about ways in which the Toronto C.R. churches and the AACS/ICS could be of more help and support to one another.

Hours of group discussions were followed by the formation of work groups to study Local Church Renewal, A Metro Corporate Ministry and the Metro Ministry of AACS/ICS.

The Local Church Renewal group suggested exciting ways in which the Sunday church services could better serve to bridge the gap between daily life and worship. The Metro Corporate Ministry group suggested ways in which the C.R. churches in Metro Toronto could co-operate to become more public and effective witnesses in a highly urbanized area. There was so much to discuss about these two matters that it was time to go home before the third group had a chance to report. So we enthusiastically agreed to meet again soon, raised communally prayer and song to God in His grace in giving us this time of sharing and fellowship, and (somewhat reluctantly) headed back for our busy lives in Toronto.

DR. AL WOLTERS ACCEPTS ICS APPOINTMENT



The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Albert Wolters, who has served AACS for 15 months as Director of Educational Services, has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Philosophy on the faculty of the Institute. This appointment, effective July 1, 1974, fills the vacancy in the Philosophy department occasioned by the decision of Dr. Evan Runner not to assume the position. Al joins Dr. Hart in the Philosophy department and that department can now take on an interdisciplinary character.

Al was born in the Netherlands, grew up in British Columbia and graduated from Calvin College in 1964. His eight year graduate program leading

to a Ph.D. from the Free University with a dissertation on Plotinus: On Eros. A detailed exegetical commentary on Enneads III, 5, saw him specialize in ancient philosophy, but he also read extensively in modern philosophy.

Although it will be difficult to replace Al as Director of Educational Services in ICS, the Boards of Curators and Trustees recognize the exceptional abilities Al has for research and teaching, and wholeheartedly thank God for leading Al to accept this position. We wish him, his wife Alice (nee Van Andel) and their son Victor, a rich life of service as Al completes his work in AACCS and prepares to join the ICS faculty.

PERSPECTIVE EDITOR RESIGNS

Carol Wilson, Perspective co-editor since September, 1972, and more recently editor, has decided to devote full time to her studies and will no longer edit the newsletter. Her interest in sharing the activities and ideas of other groups with AACCS members has added a new dimension to Perspective. We are grateful that Carol has agreed to continue doing interviews and special articles for us and wish her well as she studies at the University of Toronto.

We have decided to add the editing of Perspective to the job description of the Director of Educational Services engaged to replace Al Wolters, and in the meantime AACCS staff members, particularly Al Wolters and Marcia Hollingsworth, will share the responsibilities.



DR. ROBERT VANDERVENNEN NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board of Trustees of the AACCS is pleased to announce that Dr. Robert VanderVennen has accepted the position of Executive Director of the AACCS. We received this welcome news as Perspective was going to press and hope to bring you further information in the next issue. Bob will begin to take up his responsibilities on a part time basis in April and work alongside our retiring Executive Director, John Olthuis, until he is able to move his family from Chicago to Toronto. Dr. VanderVennen brings a wealth of academic and administrative experience to the position. He was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, received his A.B. from Calvin College in 1950 and his Ph.D. with a major in physical chemistry from Michigan State University in 1954. After six years of work as a research chemist he became professor of Chemistry at Bellhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi in 1956 and in 1959 moved to Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois as one of the five initial faculty and as academic dean of the college. His broad experience at Trinity led him to a decision to donate his life to University level administration and he has served as a part time working consultant for the Christian College Association (Alberta) since 1972. We look forward to Bob, his wife, Mary and their three children coming to Toronto.

Yes, we can talk with each other

by Joel Huyser

Is God subject to time? Does such a thing as "whiteness" exist? Can the biblical Creator be described in creational terms? Are philosophers saying anything meaningful when they talk about such things as "the ontological status of predicables"? Topics like these, difficult but of foundational importance for Christian philosophizing, were discussed during a three-week seminar on ontology (the theory about the fundamental nature of reality) at the Institute for Christian Studies (January 7 - 25). Participants in the seminar were Dr. Wolterstorff and seven students from Calvin College, along with Dr. Hart and eight students from the Institute. Eight sessions were held each of the three weeks and they were jointly taught by Dr. Wolterstorff, philosophy professor at Calvin College, and Dr. Hart, professor of philosophy at the Institute. Discussion centered around Dr. Wolterstorff's book On Universals (University of Chicago Press, 1970). The seminar in addition included a brief historical survey on the problem of universals--focusing on such figures as Boethius, Abelard, Aquinas, Ockham, and Dooyeweerd--and ended with a discussion of the relation of God and time.

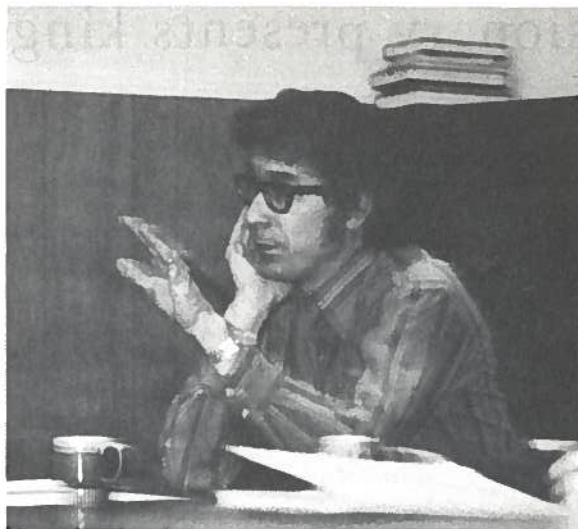
Most sessions were led off by a student paper--Calvin and Institute students alternating. But the meat of the seminar was the interplay between Dr. Hart and Dr. Wolterstorff. Hours were spent with each attempting to translate the language of the other into terms which he himself was familiar with. Often, after those long hours, areas of agreement would be found where none had been anticipated. As each man struggled to express himself in the terms of the other, the chances for meaningful dialogue were enhanced.

The areas of agreement were significant. Often it would become clear that a common faith commitment was pushing both men, each working out of his own philosophic tradition, toward similar theoretic results.

The areas of disagreement were also significant. Loggerheads were reached on the nature of statements about God. Wolterstorff asserted that "acting" was a universal kind which applied equally to both God and man. Hart hastened to add a qualification. While creaturely concepts could and must be used in talking about God in the "confessional" language of faith, Hart protested that they were not thereby applied to God in the same manner in which we would apply such concepts to creatures. Loggerheads were also reached on the Creator-creation distinction. Hart maintained that there are in the last analysis three fundamental realities: God, His creative law, and the cosmos which responds to this law. There is nothing outside of these three. Wolterstorff on the contrary argued that there is a fundamental structure of reality which stands outside these three: what he called the "kind-exemplification structure". To Hart, Wolterstorff's position seemed tantamount to placing God under the law. Of course,

Wolterstorff strongly resisted such an implication.

From a student's standpoint the seminar was truly a "once only" learning experience. It sharpened one's own critical sensitivity to follow the lead of Dr. Hart and Dr. Wolterstorff as they probed for the exact meaning (and import) of what the other had said. The opportunity to view "live" two philosophic traditions in dialogue gave one a heightened appreciation for the seriousness of the issues involved. The seminar hopefully ended with all participants possessing a greater awareness of the problems and issues involved in developing a Christian ontology--a task to which both Dr. Hart and Dr. Wolterstorff are committed.



Dr. Nick Wolterstorff.

But perhaps the significance of the ontology seminar is as much "political" as philosophic and pedagogical. Relations between the Calvin philosophy department and the "Dooyeweerdians" have not always been the most cordial. Philosophic differences have often loomed as chasms too hazardous even to attempt to broach. Yet the seminar of January 7 - 27 is history.

In one sense the "success" of the ontology seminar is a tribute to those involved. The seminar was marked from start to finish by remarkable reserves of Christian understanding and patience. An easy humour, a brotherly camaraderie was present throughout. There was evidenced by each a respect for the genuineness of the other's commitment to Christian scholarship. So tribute is due to the participants, especially Dr. Hart and Dr. Wolterstorff.

HATS OFF TO THE EDMONTON CHAPTER for their initiative and hard work in the past months! Among other things, they made it possible for the Discovery V lectures of Harry Van Belle and Arnold DeGraaff to be taped and broadcast by a local radio station (CKUA). This was the result of a pre-lecture press release published in the Edmonton Journal. Also, in the context of the EVERYONE ONE drive, the Edmonton AACs'ers have signed up eleven new members of the Association.

Missionary presents kingdom vision for Japan

by Masuo Miyazaki

HARVEY SMIT VISITS ICS



Harvey Smit

On February 14 and 15 Harvey Smit, a Christian Reformed missionary to Japan for 15 years, visited the ICS to give three lectures on Japan. A theologian and philosopher with a Ph.D. from the Free University in Amsterdam, Dr. Smit has been focussing his scholarly interest on the study of Japan for several years.

His lectures were entitled "Modernization and other anomalies of Japan", "The Religious, Ethical Structure of Japanese Society", and "The Failure of Christianity in Japan". In his first, introductory lecture, he pointed out that in present Japanese society, a modern "Western" way of doing things goes together harmoniously with the traditional, Japanese way. The Japanese kaisha (business company),

for instance, is outwardly no different from the ones that exist in Western countries; however, its internal structure is more oriented toward the traditional ie (household) concept. Because of this tight-knit structure it is rather difficult for employees to change their jobs from one company to another.

In his second lecture, he discussed the dualism that exists between the "religious" and "ethical" structures of Japanese society. Their ethical system, according to Smit, takes care of their "public" life--social, rational, jural, political, economic and so on. This is where the people have their major values. The religious system, on the other hand, is thought to be for the "private" life of the people.

His third lecture focussed on how the Christian religion can make a meaningful contribution to the unique culture of the Japanese people. The church has generally failed to penetrate through the "ethical" system of Japanese society, which really determines the direction of the life of the people. Smit stressed that the church in Japan is called to work out the Lord's love commandment not only in the "religious" but also in the "ethical" domains of its life.

Interesting and meaningful discussions followed each of the lectures; a possible conflict that may exist between the all-pervasive ie concept and the sphere-sovereignty principle for family and company, the Japanese synthesis mentality and the "foreign" missionary's role in a different culture, were some of the questions raised and discussed. What I myself gathered from the lectures and discussions was that there is a certain legitimate room in God's creation for different nations to develop different patterns of culture in accordance with their surroundings and traditions, and yet each nation is called to

do that task only in obedient response to the Word of God, so that each sphere of her life may increasingly be opened up to Christ and enjoy His shalom. Communication and communion among Christians of different cultures and nationalities is very much needed for the coming of the Kingdom in our generation. We are thankful to Smit Sensei (Rev.) for the significant contribution he made through his lectures.

*** Masuo Miyazaki, Reformed pastor from Japan, presently studying at the Institute for Christian Studies.*

New Christian deepens perspective at ICS

From time to time, Perspective introduces to its readership some of the talented Christian students who have come to do graduate work at the Institute for Christian Studies. For this issue we have chosen Jim Minturn, a first-year student in theology.



Jim Minturn: Tall Texan
in Downtown Toronto.

At twenty-nine years of age, Jim is standing at the beginning of an entirely new phase of his life. Less than two years ago, while in Holland on his way to the far East, this tall and genial Texan became a Christian. It happened at Dutch "l'Abri", one of the Christian work-and-study centres associated with the name of Francis Schaeffer, and it was there, through men like Dr. Bob Goudzwaard, that he first learned about the Institute. After staying some months in the l'Abri community, he returned to Texas, worked for a while to earn some money, and last fall enrolled as a student at the Institute.

Before his conversion, Jim had had a checkered career. He grew up in Houston, Texas, spent two years at the Colorado School of Mining, but finally graduated from the University of Texas in 1966

with a degree in English literature. After college he served two years in the Marine Corps, and held a variety of jobs, finally becoming a qualified carpenter. Through it all, as Jim describes it, there was a quest for foundation and meaning to life, a quest which included a year-long flirtation with Buddhism and a gradual slipping into a kind of modern hedonism. The trip to Europe was meant as an opportunity to gain a new perspective on his life, perhaps to learn that the search for a foundation in life is fruitless.

What does Jim think about the Institute? He likes the emphasis at the ICS of "relating the Scriptural perspective to the task-life of twentieth-century man", and "the open-mindedness to different perspectives in the contemporary world without losing an evangelistic concern, or diluting the message of the Bible". He also appreciates the need for the kind of foundational theoretical work which is the Institute's specific task. On the other hand, he feels that the integrated perspective taught here "is not carried far enough in the structure of our personal relationships", and he is therefore very interested in exploring the possibilities of Christian community living, to learn more concretely "what it means to be Body of Christ".

Although he had initially planned to attend the Institute for only one year, Jim now plans to stay for at least one more year, shifting his attention to psychology. He hopes in the future to find work in some kind of a Christian counselling ministry. Until then, he will continue to earn his keep as a theologian-carpenter.

Parents and children: growing up together

Speaking, not as an expert, but as a novice parent who had made some important realizations about childhood and parenthood, psychologist Drs. Harry Van Belle shared these insights with the Christian community in the third lecture of the Discovery V series, "Towards Maturity in Christ".

Response-ability to God as the Creator of the world and its Redeemer, he began by saying, provides the context for family relationships--leading one another to grow in ability to respond to God with love in His world.

"The family is a 'we' thing," stressed Drs. Van Belle, "a growing up together." The thing that distinguishes the family from other "we" structures is the mutual care of father, mother, brother, and sister. This means, not only that children need the parental care of their parents, but also that parents need the childlike kind of sharing their children can give.

This fact, Drs. Van Belle pointed out, is often overlooked. When the first child is born, the parents are as green at being parents as the child is at growing up, and, says Drs. Van Belle, they continue to be beginners with every new step of the child's maturation. The need of the parents for the child's caring responses comes into focus when you consider how the parents look on the child's behaviour and words for their knowledge of how well they are doing as parents and where they must change and mature.

Drs. Van Belle stressed two considerations in his lecture. The first is the importance of remembering that a child is "affectively oriented". He responds to what affects his senses in each new situation, not yet being able to remember and generalize from previous situations. "This fact may go a long way," Drs. Van Belle pointed out, "toward explaining why adults have to tell their children again and again to shut the door, to wipe their feet, etc."

The other main consideration for the parents centered around the danger at the teen-age level. Along with the parents' caring there must be trust, trust that risks giving the child an increasing amount of freedom and responsibility in accordance with his increasing degree of maturity. Care and trust formulate "a comprehensive rule for parental nurture". According to Drs. Van Belle, "this rule states that we may help our children neither more nor less than that which enables them to exercise their own responsibility to God, as they mature".



The Van Belles chat with Dr. Wolters before lecture.

Miniscripts

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY WITH AACS IN MAY

Due to foreseeable shifts in personnel and work loads in this coming summer, the AACS requests persons interested in a clerical or bookkeeping position to apply to the Association. .

Send a brief description of your abilities, work experience, and employment interests to:

AACS,
c/o Mr. Harry Houtman,
229 College Street,
Toronto, Ontario.
M5T 1R4 CANADA.

- * Educational Director Al Wolters made a swing through the American Midwest at the beginning of February. After participating in the Iowa City conference on Christian education, he visited Tom and Nancy Forman in Lawrence, Kansas, who arranged for him to give two public talks: one to Christian students on the Kansas University campus, and one to their local church group. After Lawrence, Al visited Minneapolis/St. Paul in Minnesota, where he had fruitful discussions with students and professors of Bethel College, and met with leaders of Young Life.
- * In response to the request in the last Perspective for scholarship monies for two Australian students, the Scholarship Fund has to date received \$770. This is a heartening beginning, for which we are very grateful. We urge other readers to consider helping to close the gap between this and the \$3,500 needed.
- * On March 1 Dr. B. Zylstra spoke in the Canadian Reformed Church in Toronto to a local meeting of the Christian Labour Association of Canada. The title of his address was "Evangelism and Capitalism".
- * On March 4, Dr. Bernard Zylstra spoke to the annual meeting of the Christian Reformed Ontario Minister's Institute in Brampton. The title of his address was "Comprehensive Evangelism in a Closed Society".
- * From February 28 - March 2, Dr. Arnold DeGraaff visited Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania (halfway between Erie and Pittsburgh). He had been specifically invited to give his Discovery V lecture at this Christian college, but while there he was also invited to lecture in four different psychology classes, and to meet more informally with a large number of students, faculty and administration officials. Although this was a rather strenuous schedule for two days--"I must have talked for about thirty hours", Dr. DeGraaff commented--his reception was so cordial and the response so positive that he returned home exhilarated and much encouraged. His visit is to be followed up by Dr. James Olthuis later this semester.
- * Dr. P.A. Schouls, professor and chairman of the philosophy department of the University of Alberta held a special seminar for the Institute students working in the historiography of aesthetics. The February 23rd seminar dealt with Kant's introductions to his Critique of (aesthetic and teleological) Judgement and examined why they seemed such vital essays to Fichte and Hegel. Professor Schouls held the seminar in the context of his having been appointed as Fellow of the Institute for Christian Studies.
- * Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Wilkinson visited the ICS on February 1 - 5. Dr. Wilkinson is a professor of New Testament theology at the Reformed Theological College in Geelong, Australia. During his current sabbatical he lectured on the Book of Revelation at Calvin Theological Seminary, and visited several theological schools in Europe, Scotland and the United States. During his visit to the ICS, Dr. Wilkinson presented a lecture on the Second Coming in theology class while Mrs. Olive Wilkinson shared her experiences as a counsellor with the students in psychology.

- * AACS Executive Director, John Olthuis, has published an article, "Can Less Be More?", in the current newsletter of the CJL Foundation. The article deals with a Christian assessment of political and economic priorities. For copies, write Committee for Justice and Liberty Foundation, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario. M5T 1R4.
- * On March 8, Dr. Kurt Koch, well-known evangelical German authority on the occult, and author of Christian Counselling and the Occult, lectured at the Institute about his specialty. A large audience listened to his account of personal experience with cases of demon possession, and biblical norms for dealing with the occult in general.
- * Basilean Films (from Greek basileia, "kingdom") has produced a film called "What if they gave an election and nobody came?", which deals with a Kingdom view of such issues as abortion, Christian schools, and Christian political responsibility. The film is available for both public showing (in church, school, community) and for showing on local cable television. For information write, the National Association for Christian Political Action (NACPA) at Box 185, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250.
- * ICS psychology student, Ken Van Wyk, is teaching a psychology course at Richmond College, an undergraduate Christian college in suburban Toronto. Dr. Arnold DeGraaff of ICS also participates with some course lectures.
- * The AACS has received a letter from the Christian Economic Assistance Foundation informing us of its existence. We pass the message along to our readers. The Christian Economic Assistance Foundation is a non-profit organization set up to help local Christian causes to raise funds and to raise funds itself which it will again distribute as grants to these same Christian causes. It has up till now sponsored two projects; the first the printing of two Christmas cards, the second an anniversary and birthday calendar. For further information, please contact:

Christian Economic Assistance Foundation,
1309 Gerrard Street East,
Toronto, Ontario.
M4L 1Y8

- * U.S. citizens who wish to receive tax deductible receipts for gifts to the AACS should address this to the
AACS Foundation,
1677 Gention Drive S.E.,
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49508,
U.S.A.

All other correspondence, membership dues and requests should be addressed to:

AACS,
229 College Street,
Toronto, Ontario.
M5T 1R4.



Dr. Seerveld Follows Student Discussion.

* On February 6 - 7, Dr. Seerveld was invited to speak at Andrews University, the major university sponsored by the Seventh Day Adventist Church in the United States. Located in Berrien Springs, Michigan, Andrews University is celebrating its centennial this academic year. Dr. Seerveld reported finding a deep sense of Christian brotherhood and community among the large faculty and student body of about 2,000 students; they are often persecuted for their religious observance of the Sabbath. Dr. Seerveld spoke on "The Biblical Charter for Artistic Activity in the Christian Community", and was especially warmly received by the sculptors, painters and musicians in residence as professors there. The biblical fullness of the Reformation faith of Christ's Lordship over all creation drew a hearty approval from the Andrews University community.

* On March 6, Dr. C. Seerveld was invited by the Student Government Association of Gordon College to speak to the college assembly on "The Cultural Mandate in Art". This lecture was part of the Gordon College Lyceum Convocation Series of 1974 and gave Seerveld an opportunity to interact with various students and professors from both Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Seminary during a full day of informal discussions. Key student leaders organized the series in which Covenant College educator, Mrs. Geraldine Steensma and Mr. Gerald Vandezande, Executive Secretary of the Committee for Justice and Liberty Foundation participated.

* On March 7, Dr. Seerveld spoke on "The Meaning of Our Nakedness" at Edinboro State College in Edinboro, Pa. Dr. Seerveld had been invited by Gary Smith, staff member for the Coalition for Christian Outreach at Edinboro, and was hosted by fellow-Christian professor, Wayne Petersen, himself a painter and vice-chairman of the 43-man Edinboro art department. Some 150 attended the lecture and engaged Seerveld in animated discussion.

* On March 15 - 17, Dr. Seerveld spoke as Staley Foundation lecturer under the auspices of Dr. Calvin Malefyt, pastor of the University Reformed Church on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Under the general theme of "Mission of the Church in the Arts", Dr. Seerveld spoke five times to an audience composed largely of graduate students interested in the arts. They included Christians from a wide number of church backgrounds, as well as unbelievers. In Dr. Seerveld's words, "questioning was sharp, interesting and vigorous", and a number of valuable contacts were made.

- * Dr. Seerveld has authored the 2,000 word article on "Christian Art" in the forthcoming Inter-national Dictionary of the Christian Church, to be published by Zondervan this year.
- * The March 11 Toronto Star contained a write-up about a family that had managed to move from "rows" to "harmony and unity". The mother commented, "I attended a lecture at Seneca College given by Dr. Arnold DeGraaff of the Institute for Christian Studies. I was so inspired by his thoughts on child raising". It's great to see, in instances like this, the concrete contribution of ICS studies.
- * Unbelief and Revolution, Lecture XI, by Guillaume Groen van Prinsterer. This attractive little booklet (xxii plus 68 pages) is the first fruits of a communal translation project which goes back to 1955, when members of the Groen van Prinsterer Society at Calvin College, under the leadership of Dr. H. E. Runner, undertook the task of translating Ongeloof en Revolutie, the major work of the nineteenth-century Dutch Christian historian and statesman whose name they had adopted. In an important sense, this book was the manifesto of the nineteenth-century Dutch revival of Calvinism which Groen inaugurated and Kuyper thrust into national and international prominence. It deals with the background, course and aftermath of the French Revolution as the historical result of the consistent denial of biblical religion in modern Europe, and contains the germ of many themes which today characterize the movement for Scripturally-directed learning. This first instalment of the translation contains the crucial Lecture XI: "The History of the Revolution in its First Phase: The Preparation (Till 1789)". It is edited and translated by Harry Van Dyke, in collaboration with Donald Morton, both North American students doing doctoral work in history at the Free University in Amsterdam. Copies may be ordered from the Groen van Prinsterer Fund, c/o Hoofdgebouw K. 13A-31, Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- * New Publication: The Idea of Christian Philosophy is a collection of scholarly essays presented to D.H.T. Vollenhoven on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. It contains an extensive introduction by Herman Dooyeweerd and contributions by fourteen other scholars associated with the international reformational movement, including two Institute professors who are former students of Vollenhoven: Seerveld and Hart. Available from Wedge Publishing Foundation, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario. M5T 1R4, Canada. Price: \$5.95.
- * The Christian Reformed Banner will open its pages for a number of articles on the AACS by an official representative beginning in June.
- * In the last Perspective we promised a financial statement. We are sorry that the board of directors has not met to approve the audit at press time. All members of the AACS will therefore receive the 1973 audited statement in the mail during the last week of April, God willing.
- * The AACS is still paying 11½% interest on \$30,000 of open mortgages and loans. We are now interested in borrowing money at 8% on amounts in multiples of \$100 minimum. In emergency, we guarantee return of money in 30 days. Send your cheques clearly marked "loans", and we will send you proper documentation.

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Coming Events

SUMMER INSTITUTE 1974 -- July 22 - August 2

*Institute for Christian Studies, 229 College Street,
Toronto, Ontario. M5T 1R4, Canada.*

Seminar in Economic Theory & Policy

Led by Dr. A.B. Cramp, Lecturer in Economics at Cambridge University, England, and Dr. Bob Goudzwaard, Professor of Economic Theory at the Free University in Amsterdam.

Basic Issues Seminar in Philosophy

Led by Dr. Hendrik Hart, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto, Ontario.

FOR MORE DETAILS, WRITE: ICS, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario.
M5T 1R4, Canada.

AACS CONFERENCES

- April 19-20 * TRENTON, Ontario. Dr. S. Greidanus on how to read and understand the Scriptures. For more details contact: Peter Van Huizen, 197 Henry Street, Stirling, Ontario.
- June 28 - * BRITISH COLUMBIA. Trinity Western College, Langley, B.C.
July 1 Conference Chairman: Nick Ringma, 20533 - 98th Avenue, Langley, B.C.
- Aug. 2-5 * TRENTON, Ontario. Laval Park, Cor Hill, Ontario.
* ALBERTA. Alberta Evangelical Camp, Didsbury, Alberta.
* NIAGARA, Ontario. Niagara Christian College, Fort Erie, Ontario.
* THUNDER BAY, Ontario. Dorion Bible Camp, on Lake Superior.
- Oct. 4-6 * MICHIGAN. Camp Geneva, Holland, Michigan.
- Nov. 1-2 * NEW JERSEY. Harvey Cedars Conference Grounds, Long Beach Island, New Jersey.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- March 30 * Drs. Seerveld & McIntire will be two of the four speakers at the annual all-day conference of the Evangelical Theological Society (Canada) to be held at Wycliffe College of the University of Toronto.
- April 19 * Dr. J. Olthuis will speak on "Marriage, Family & Friendship" at Grove City College, Pa. For details contact: Ken Heffner, Box 493, Grove City College, Grove City, Pa.
- April 25-26 * Dr. C. Seerveld will give a series of lectures on aesthetics at Bethel College, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- April 27-28 * Dr. J. Olthuis will be speaking at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., in the context of the annual Allegheny Colloquy.

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