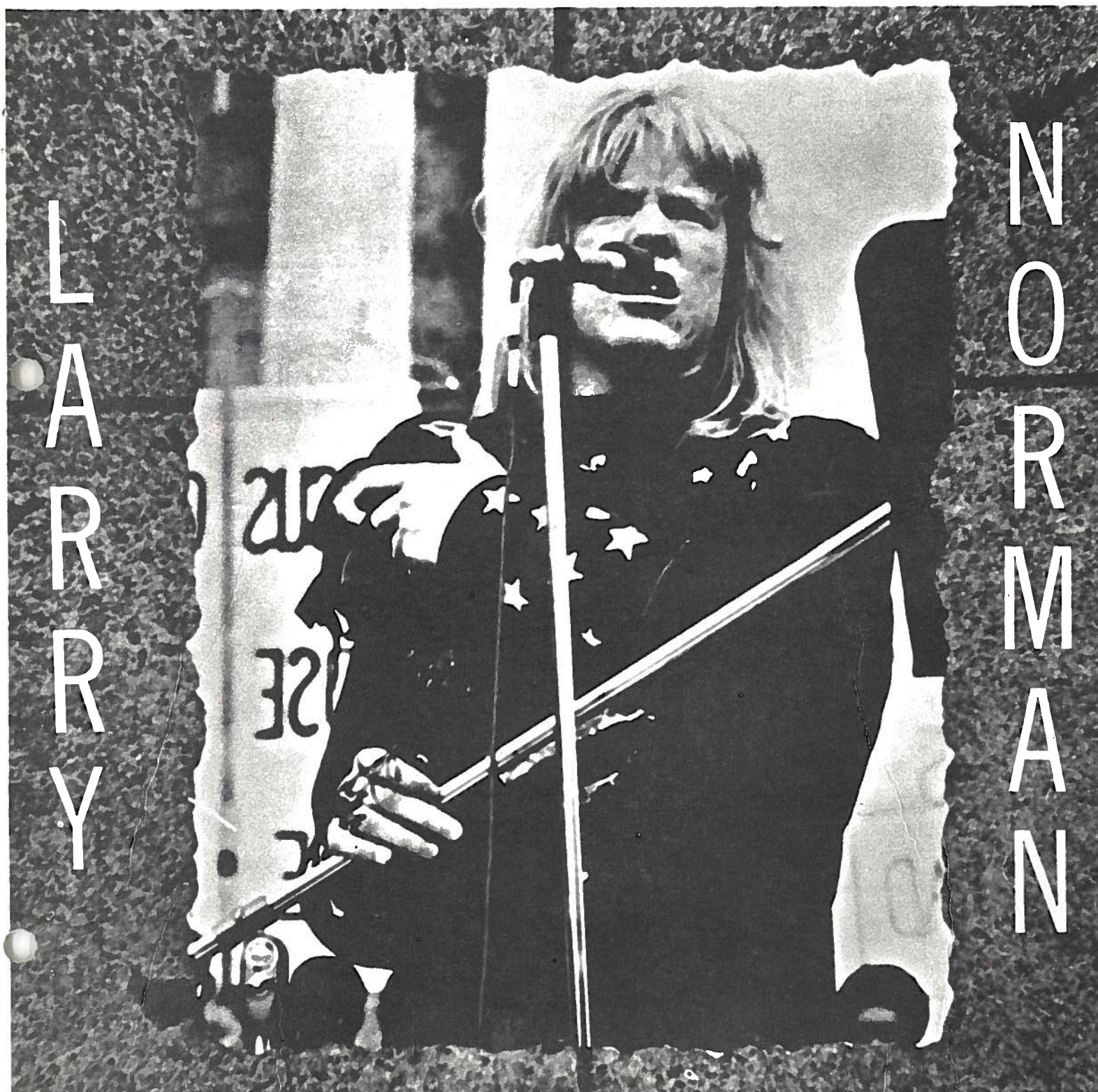


•perspective

Newsletter of the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship
Vol. 5, No. 3



Dear Supporters and Friends of the ICS
and AACS,

Larry Norman, referred to in the June 21 Time as "probably the top solo artist in the Jesus-rock field," will be a featured attraction at the Ontario AACS Study Conference to be held near London, Ontario, on the weekend of July 30, according to John Hultink, the director of development for the Association.

Norman's concert and extemporary performances will complement a program of thoughtful lectures by professors James Olthuis and Hendrik Hart of the Institute for Christian Studies. Olthuis will address the oldest and largest conference of the Association on the topic: "Towards a New Biblical Life Style: Marriage, Family and Friendship"; Hart will consider how the Christian community may best express its faith in concrete situations in contemporary society by considering the topic: "Signposts of Christ's Kingdom".

John Hultink says about this combination of Christian entertainment and intellectual discussion, "We at the Association have one medium of communicating our Christian belief, Larry Norman and people like him have another. By bringing together thought and music we hope to deepend and enrich each other's contribution. I feel very strongly that we can learn something from Larry Norman, and Larry Norman can learn something from us."



The Ontario conference this year will meet in the rolling parks and farmland surrounding the spacious setting of Belvoir Centre in Delaware, Ontario. After the facilities at Niagara Christian College were destroyed by fire earlier this year, the decision was made to move into the southwestern Ontario site which will provide an auditorium seating 600 people. Between 400-500 will probably attend the conference during the three-day holiday weekend. Provisions will be made for visitors and for those who want to attend the Norman concert. Application blanks giving more information are available from the AACS, 141 Lyndhurst Ave., Toronto 4, Ontario.



John Hultink on the Meaning of the Ontario Conference

John, how have these Ontario conferences changed since they began in 1959?

Ontario
Conference
Serves
Whole
Christian
Community

"During the early years of Association conferences, the emphasis was on academic presentations for college graduates and undergraduates; especially since the opening of the Institute for Christian Studies, which is directed primarily to the students' academic needs, the conferences have become more oriented to the needs of the Christian community as a whole. Now students and non-students alike can benefit equally from these conferences."

Why is Larry Norman really coming to this conference?

Norman
Tries
to
Glorify
God

"Actually Larry Norman is one of the few young people who has made a serious attempt to glorify God in his musical presentations. The world of popular and rock music is largely dominated by those who wish to make a mighty sound of praise to themselves; Larry Norman is making a genuine attempt to fill his rock music with a redemptively Christian content and idiom."

Is it true that you're urging people, both young and old, who are highly critical of the Biblical direction of the Association, to attend this conference?

Critics
Should
Come

"Yes, that's right. From my personal experiences, I judge that there's a great deal of unfair and unfounded criticism directed against the Biblical soundness of the Association's activities. Many young people who desperately need Christian direction in their lives are discouraged from choosing the AACS as one of the communities where they might find this direction."

Lives of
Students
Changed
by
Christ

"I've attended these conferences myself for eight years, and I'm convinced beyond any kind of a doubt whatsoever that if our critics could experience the fantastic community of believers and struggling attempts that are made to understand God's will for our life, they would experience a side of the Association that through their absence they've never come in contact with. Seeing first hand how some of these young people are gripped anew by the redemptive power of the Word, is an experience which will completely shatter all skepticism and doubt. The lives of some of our most rebellious young people are changed by Christ."

Is it true that you invite anyone to come to the conference?

Jubilant
Christian
Celebration

"We pray that young people, especially, who are caught up in the evils of drugs, pre-marital sex, and a general callousness to Christianity, will attend this year's conference. This three-day conference is three days of Christian fellowship, sharing each other's problems, jubilant Christian celebration, and relaxation. We hope to see you there."

Previews of the Speeches of Hart and Olthuis

From Hendrik Hart's speech, "Signposts of Christ's Kingdom":

"The message of the movement is best expressed in the phrase coined years ago by Dr. Evan Runner: 'Life is religion'. The phrase is as much a despised slogan as it is a cherished banner. It has also drawn the two most consistent criticism to which I would like to devote these two lectures. From the very beginning our style and our message, shaped by the conviction that life is religion indeed, have both been the objects of controversy. Our style has been characterized as the style of fanatic absolutists; our message has been labeled as a message that is more philosophical than it is Biblical. These two criticism are the only two points on which all the critics are agreed, be they old or young, to our left and to our right, from our own tradition and from others. Since they are so universal, I have chosen them rather than other misgivings. In dealing with them I would like to emphasize their positive value, namely, what we can learn from them."

An overview of James Olthuis' "Towards a New Biblical Life-Style":

Moving on from last year's lectures, in which both the "old morality" and the "new morality" were discovered to be out of tune with the Biblical witness, Dr. Olthuis will suggest guidelines for a new Biblical life-style for the 1970's. To make the matter as concrete as possible and recognizing that today family life, marriage communion, and friendship are slipping and sliding, along with everything else in the modern crisis, attention will be focused on these key areas of concern. Contemporary Christians must begin to forge a new style of Christian living--what better way than by concentrating on these crucial relationships.

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Bob Goudzwaard Unable to Come

John Olthuis issued the following statement today, explaining the circumstances which made it impossible for Dr. Bob Goudzwaard to begin his work at the Institute this month.



Bob Goudzwaard

"The Board of Governors and staff of the ICS-AACS sadly announce that Dr. Bob Goudzwaard, appointed to the ICS staff as Associate Professor of economics, effective June 1, 1971, has informed us that he will not be able to assume that position.

"In his letter to the Governors, Bob, also on behalf of his wife Riny, said--

'To my deep regret I have to ask you in this letter to discharge me from my promise to come to you and take the chair of associate professor of economics in the Institute.

'As you know already, our preparations to come were in an advanced stage: our boat was already booked, our house let in principle; furthermore, I had rejected an offer to go to the Free University and to be a candidate for the AR Party to be member of parliament for another four years. So our whole family was not only prepared but eager to come. But then at once the difficulties started; the Canadian Embassy denied an immigrant status for our eldest son, Theo, and the first examination about his emigration was extremely negative.'

"Bob goes on to tell how further medical examinations confirmed that it would be extremely unwise to bring Theo to Canada because of the almost certain detrimental and permanent effects the move would have for the boy's health.

"When the final telegram, 'Coming Alas Not Justified' arrived, all of us were stunned even though we sensed it would read that way.

"Regardless of how we look at it, this development is a very serious setback--'the most serious in our history' according to the ICS staff. This is particularly the case since a Christian approach to economics is of such crucial importance to our attempted contributions to the development of a more rigorous Christian mind in North America.

"When Bob and Riny accepted the appointment, we were amazed and extremely grateful that he was leaving an important role in The Netherlands to come and help us. Now we are very disappointed. Nevertheless, we firmly believe that the Goudzwaards made the right decision. It was responsible for their family and was made openly before the face of God and His people. What a blessing to The Netherlands that the Lord wants to use Bob in that country.

"Dr. Goudzwaard's letter to the Governors ended with these words:

'What remains is a personal debt to you all. Perhaps it is allowed to me to pay off something of that debt in the future. But in any case, there remains the staying promise of our Saviour, Who will never be obliged to withdraw one of His Words.'

"Many letters have already crossed the Atlantic discussing the possibility of having Bob come to Canada for short periods to 'pay off his debt'. At the moment it appears likely that he will come for the first time during the summer of 1972 for a summer seminar at the Institute and to lecture at some summer conferences.

"All of us, members, board members and staff, must continue--with new vigor and vision--to use the many many splendid opportunities our good God gives for us to be a blessing to our neighbors in North America.

J.A. Olthuis
Executive Secretary
Board of Governors

P.S. How about dropping Bob and Riny a letter at
Mr. Kesperstraat 36
Schoonhoven
The Netherlands"

* * * * *

"Goal Number One is to Work Towards a Christian University"
States New Trustee Chairman, Marinus Koole

President
of
Creekside
Gardens

As reported in the last Newsletter, Mr. Marinus Koole was elected to the chairmanship of the Board of Trustees of the AACCS at the spring meetings held at the end of March. Mr. Koole, 49, is president of Creekside Gardens, a wholesale florist company in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Marinus and his wife, Elisabeth, immigrated from The Netherlands in 1948. They began their life together in Canada by working for a fruit farmer near St. Catharines,

Lord
Blessed
Business

and made \$75 a month between the two of them. These sparse early years were followed by ten years for Marinus as both a fruit farmer and insurance agent. Gradually his farm developed into a florist business, and is now probably one of the largest wholesale florist companies in Ontario.

"Genuinely
Interested"

The following interview was done by Karen Van Til, who said that she found both Mr. and Mrs. Koole "friendly, warm and genuinely interested in the AACS and Institute in a quiet, unassuming way."

An Interview with Marinus Koole:

Mr. Koole, could you give me some of the reasons for your hesitancy in assuming your position as president of the Board of Trustees?

"Educated
Through My
Own Life
Experience"

"It is a responsible position to lead an organization such as the AACS. I'm not a professor, not an intellectual; I'm what you might call 'self-educated' through my own life experience. But I have a deep appreciation personally for the work of the Association. In a way I think this task is too heavy--I think it needs someone who is somewhat intellectual, who has studied more, who is more able to, ja, how shall I express it.... As far as business goes, I am experienced. But, I know in the Board the people who stand beside me will help me and with the help of God we can do it...and find the place of service in and for the work God has given the AACS to do.

Much
Christian
Leadership
Experience

"As for my experience in being a chairman, I've been on the board for ten years of the Christian grade school. Five years for the Hamilton Christian High School board, and at present I'm chairman of the board for Beacon Christian High and have been in the consistory of Trinity Christian Reformed Church, St. Catharines, for a number of years. But I've only gone through grade 7. My education has been in experience of life.

"Bible on
Table,
Kuyper on
Wall"

"I've always had a high interest for this work--in Holland in our young people's society we were brought up with the Bible on the table and a picture of Abraham Kuyper on the wall. We were concerned about the work of the Christian community in the life of the nation. It was strange when I immigrated to see no action along these lines in Canada. I think that it has been dormant until the church, schools, social and Christian labour began to be more active.

AACS
Perspective
"Nothing
New"

"The perspective of the AACS is nothing new--it goes back to Abraham Kuyper and Groen van Prinsterer--simply working out what we have been taught, especially as we try to be Biblical, this is the only way we can go. The AACS is part of our heritage. The danger is that this heritage will get watered down as it comes to Canada."

What role do you see for yourself as president of the Board?

Oneness
of the
Board

"I would say to lead the meetings and together with the other members of the Board make the wisest decisions. I would like to emphasize the cooperation and oneness of the Board. I have never served on any board where there is so much unanimity and oneness of the faith as this. In the four years that I have served that thought always struck me--and we can be thankful for this. We can discuss issues openly in a relationship of trust.

Must Make
Decisions
Biblical

"We must make decisions that are Biblical, and true to the Word and of the most benefit to the Christian community. This is not something that is extreme...we must be patient, and not depend upon ourselves but simply do the work God has placed before us as mature people before the face of God."

What changes have you seen in your service on the Board of Trustees?

Greater
Progress
Than
Anticipated

"The progress has been much greater than anticipated--we have been so greatly blessed. We never thought that the ARSS (as it was then) would grow so rapidly. Even with criticism, we have grown in members and support has increased. But this is not the work of men's hands, but the work of God and this spurs us on more."

What do you see as the task of the AACS in the future?

"Goal No. I:
To
Work
Toward a
Christian
University"

"The very name, the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship says quite a bit. If we put the emphasis on that we will have our hands full with a task so big. But we must not try to do too much--we need wise men on the staff--these men are young, but I appreciate what they are doing...the time, work they put in--I do appreciate that. That is the task...the advancement of scholarship in all areas of life. And goal number one is to work toward a Christian university. We are working on that--not under the table, but in the open. This may take years. But the ground work is being done and is of importance. The AACS is working to prepare the way toward the Institute for Christian Studies becoming a university."

What do you see in the future of the AACS as many students come to the Institute who do not have the kind of "Reformed" background that many have now?

To Serve
Total
Christian
Community,
Not Just
Christian
Reformed

"The task of the AACS is to serve the total Christian community, not just the Christian Reformed Church. One of our aims has always been to make it not just "Christian Reformed". Now is the time to join hands with many others. I'm not apprehensive--I have no objections providing their world and life view is Biblically sound... we may not water down our perspective to enlarge our

membership. This is the most dangerous thing we can do and shows in history as can be seen by Waterloo Lutheran and MacMaster which was Baptist."

How can the AACCS best face those who criticize it in the future?

Come to
a Conference
and Find
Out More
About Us

Most criticism is given by people who know the least about the Association. The closer to the fire one gets the calmer it is. There is a lot of criticism the AACCS ought to listen to...it should listen to all sound criticism and forget all gossip and simply do the work the Lord has given us. If we would listen to all that comes in, we would give up tomorrow. But we do appreciate sound criticism and we wish all who are critical would come and visit the Institute or come and talk with us; come to a conference and find out more about the Association."

* * * * *

Number of Institute Full-Time Graduate Students Doubles to 50 for 1971-72

As of June 24, 41 students have been accepted for study at the Institute for the next academic year, with another nine applications in the final stages of acceptance. This will result in forty-five to fifty-five full-time graduate students studying in the Christian community of thinkers at the ICS, an increase of nearly 100% from last year's twenty-six full-time grad students. Eighteen of last year's students will return. The names of these students and those new students accepted are listed below.

Students returning for second or third year:

Laura Balogh;	Ken Cross;	Don Sinnema;
George Balogh;	Cal Davies;	Ko Takariki;
Dick Boonstra;	Jack De Klerk;	Richard Tyssen;
Dick Both;	Harry Fernhout;	Harry VanderVelde;
Brad Breems;	Tom Forman;	Michael Welton;
David Campbell;	Bernie Haverhals;	Harry Westerhof.

New students:

Marlin Breems, B.A. Dordt College; philosophy;
 John V. Chang, B.Sc. Gordon College; biology;
 John W. Cooper, A.B. Calvin College; philosophy;
 Robert J. Eells, B.S. Geneva College;
 Sylvan E. Gerritsma, A.B. Dordt College; English, law;
 Fred Heerema, A.B. Dordt College; philosophy;
 Don L. James, B.S.E., M.A., Northern Illinois University;
 English, history;
 Marion R. Johnson, B.A. University of Western Ontario;
 English (part-time);

John G. Keizer, B.A. Dordt College; philosophy;
Nanci J. Kreps, B.A. Dordt College; English;
Paul A. Marshall, B.S. Manchester University; geology;
Jay Means, B.S. Geneva College; biology;
Roger W. O'Kones, B.A. Dordt College; philosophy;
Ralph N. Phillips, B.S. Geneva College; biology;
Perry D. Recker, B.A. Trinity College; philosophy;
David A. Selvig, B.A. Bethel College; philosophy;
Carol J. Slager, B.A. Calvin College; English;
David R. Stains, B.A. Geneva College; philosophy; (part-time);
Robert G. VanderPlaats, A.B. Dordt College; philosophy, history;
Karen Van Til, Dordt College; psychology;
Jackie M. Van Veen, Dordt College; psychology;
Thomas H. Webster, B.S. University of Pittsburgh;
psychology, anthropology;
Robert C. Wiltsie, B.S. Geneva College; philosophy, biology.

* * * * *

Houtman Appointed Associate Development Director

We are thankful to the Lord to be able to announce that Mr. Harry Houtman, 26, of London, Ontario, has accepted an appointment by the Association as associate director of development, beginning September 1, 1971. Mr. Houtman will assist John Hultink, director of development, in the general developmental work of the Association, concentrating on the expansion of the membership of the AACs in both Canada and the U.S.

"To Build
Grass
Roots
Support"

Just having successfully finished three years of high school teaching, Mr. Houtman expressed his desire to make a more significant contribution to the Christian community by building the grass roots support of the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship, without which an effort to build a Christian mind and a Christian university witness will surely run aground.



Tine and Harry Houtman

M.A.
Ohio
State

Mr. Houtman attained a B.A. in English from Calvin College and an M.A. in English from Ohio State University. He's spent a year working and traveling in Germany, and two years teaching high school in Medicine Hat, Alberta, and one year teaching in the public high schools of London, Ontario.

AACS
Position
"An
Answer
to
a Call"

Upon learning of his appointment, Mr. Houtman stated, "To accept an appointment to the controversial, perhaps embattled, AACS organization, demonstrates total personal agreement and commitment of the appointee. When that person is then, secondly, placed in the forefront of confrontation with the issues, that individual may do so only as a Christian who puts all his faith in God's faithfulness. Thus, the appointment as assistant to John Hultink is not a casual change of employment from being a high school teacher to being a public relations man, but it is an answer to a call.

The
Great
Mandate
"Always
Before Me"

"A call is not the most desirable sometimes. Moses protested God's call to deliver Israel, and with similar misgivings about abilities I answer the AACS's call to work. However, I hope always to have before me the great mandate of God--to love Him with heart, mind, soul, and strength. If I do this, and place His Kingdom first, then I can go forward, and the AACS will be meaningful work and many Christians can work together.

To
Work
In
Untested
Area

"The Lord willing, my work will take me to many Christians of different backgrounds and denominations who have never heard of the AACS, ICS, CLAC, NACPA or other Christian action groups. It is my hope that the present supporters will remain faithful in prayer, discussion and financial contribution to a 'faith budget' so that I will be able to work in an untested area that may actually require years of work and preparation.

"Just as my understanding, life outlook, and personal involvement with the AACS have grown since I was introduced to the basic 'Life is religion' and 'a Christian's life should be totally new and consistent' concepts by Dr. Runner at Calvin College, so it will take years of growing for others who are just being introduced.

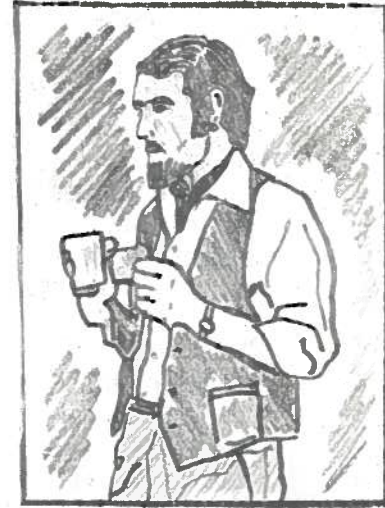
"To
Draw
Christians
Together"

"Finally, my work is not to support and develop a power structure, a pseudo-church or semi-church, but to draw Christians together, especially in scholarship, so that they, from many denominations, may begin to influence our nations through a Christian life-style. I see the unity of Christians in the Spirit--not necessarily in the sense of denominational ecumenicity--to be of great importance. The antithesis is between Christ and Satan, not between Paul and Barnabas. Let's remember that and live it. Hopefully my work for the AACS--for Christ and His Kingdom--will help us see that again."

* * * * *

Pot Completes Two Years

By the beginning of May most of the full-time students at the Institute have left Toronto to find summer jobs. The majority of them will be returning for further study in the fall, but on May 5, Jim (Hans) Pot completed two years study at the Institute and returned to The Netherlands where he was born and raised and where he states that he intends to stay.



Jim Pot

Taught
Four
Years

Pot came to the Institute for Christian Studies in a rather circuitous way. His primary interest is education; Jim attended a Reformed Christian teachers' college in The Netherlands for five years and taught for four years before he quit teaching and decided to "see the world, spend my money" and visit some of his relatives in Canada. Pot bluntly admitted that at that time his dissatisfaction and desire to give his students "something more" than he could give them with his "limited education in teachers' college" was mainly at an unconscious stage when he decided to quit teaching.

Had
to
Come
to Canada
to
Discover
Dooyeweerd,
Vollenhoven

Although Pot attended a Reformed Christian teachers' college in The Netherlands, he never had any contact with the possibilities of a Christian philosophy during his training there. "I didn't even know of the existence of Dooyeweerd and Vollenhoven. They were never mentioned." Speaking of his education at the teachers' college Pot elaborated, "It was a 'Christian' college, but I don't think they had a clue about what Christian education really means. They were sincere Christians, but the problem was in how Christianity was related to daily practice. And my problem in education was the same as many other teachers had in trying to deal with the problems. They may try new things methodologically, and they are very good, but they have only methodology, and no framework to put it in." Later Pot also found that as he wrote to friends in education about the ideas he was encountering which have had their genesis in The Netherlands, they found it difficult to find the Dutch books and publications which Pot was studying in Canada.

With no knowledge of Christian philosophy or "reformational thinking", let alone the work of the AACS, how did Jim come to study at the Institute for Christian Studies?

After arriving in Canada he spent some time visiting various people, among them his cousin Hank Hultink in

AACS
Must
Break
Out of
Ghetto

Hamilton, Ont. "We talked about education," Pot stated, "and he also told me about the Bolton AACS study conference and said that it would be a nice place to meet a lot of young people. At Bolton I also talked with my cousin John Hultink. We talked late at night about the speeches." In his characteristic forthright manner, Pot evaluated the conference, saying, "I thought that there were a number of nice appealing ideas brought by DeGraaff and Zylstra, but the problem I thought was that they were geared to the Christian Reformed situation. Now I see their fundamental reasons for taking this approach, but I still feel they must begin to break out of this ghetto mentality."

Interested
in
Philosophy

But the Bolton conference did make a strong impact upon Jim Pot's own strongly held views. After the conference Pot decided to stay for some time in Canada and work. He also decided to find out more about the two courses which were being planned in philosophy and education at the Institute for Christian Studies. "I was especially interested in philosophy. I didn't have a clue as to what it was--I thought that it was probably a nice hobby for some people." And thus Jim Pot began his two years study at the Institute.

Hart:
"My Great
Teacher"

In reaction to his study at the Institute, Pot decidedly stated that "Hart has been my 'great teacher'. Hart's fantastic awareness of God dealing with his creation has impressed me as being of almost inexpressible importance. This doesn't mean that I swallow everything he says--there is a process of interaction. But in my own development Hart has played the most important role. However, in my second year DeGraaff also influenced my thinking to a large extent."

May
Study
at
Free

What does Pot plan to do when he returns home to The Netherlands?

"I hope to get the publications and lectures of the ICS sent through, because they need them. But my plans aren't definite." Among the possibilities for Pot upon returning are study at the Free University where he would get full credit for the work which he has done at the Institute in philosophy, or continued study on his own until he could begin to publish articles in educational magazines and journals.

To
Reform
Present
Dutch
Education
System

Jim Pot's interests remain centered in education. With the deepened insight he has gained in education and as he states his new realization of the "relation between God and his creation", Pot is anticipating working in the field of education to reform the present system. "Basically, teachers' college is what I'm interested in." The present system he sees as neglecting its basic task of being a center for educational research, while giving only a cursory training in rules and regulations for teachers. In the final evaluation, Jim stated, "If anything is going to happen in The Netherlands in education, the very education of the teachers themselves must change."

Carvill on Western Tour

AACS
Rooted
in
North
American
Life

Between May 10 and June 7 I visited many members of the Association in western Canada and the northwestern part of the U.S. On this trip I discovered that the Association is supported by people of many different ethnic backgrounds and occupations, and that the life of the AACS and support for the Institute are deeply rooted in the mainstream of North American life.

Amazed
By
Faithful-
ness of
Hundreds

I was amazed by the faithfulness of the hundreds I talked with personally on my two-fold mission of getting acquainted and on behalf of the Institute Expansion Campaign for 1971; deeply engrained in our western members is the vision of a strong, vibrant Christian witness in higher education, and especially in Christian graduate education, the Institute's primary concern. Many asked me how it was possible, humanly speaking, that the Association's work had grown so much and how it had expanded internationally with a greatly expanded budget--I had to answer that humanly speaking we just don't know; this work is of the Lord and will prosper as He raises up more faithful supporters who'll pray, work and give to this work for Christ and His Kingdom.

Through
Association
Many
Things
Can
Be
Accomplished

As I came back to Toronto from Seattle, I did so aware that the Lord is doing a mighty work among us. I also came home with the increased awareness that through association--by working together in a common cause--many things may be accomplished that never could be done individually. It's great to know so many people are behind us here at headquarters as we struggle to meet the challenges that we constantly face.

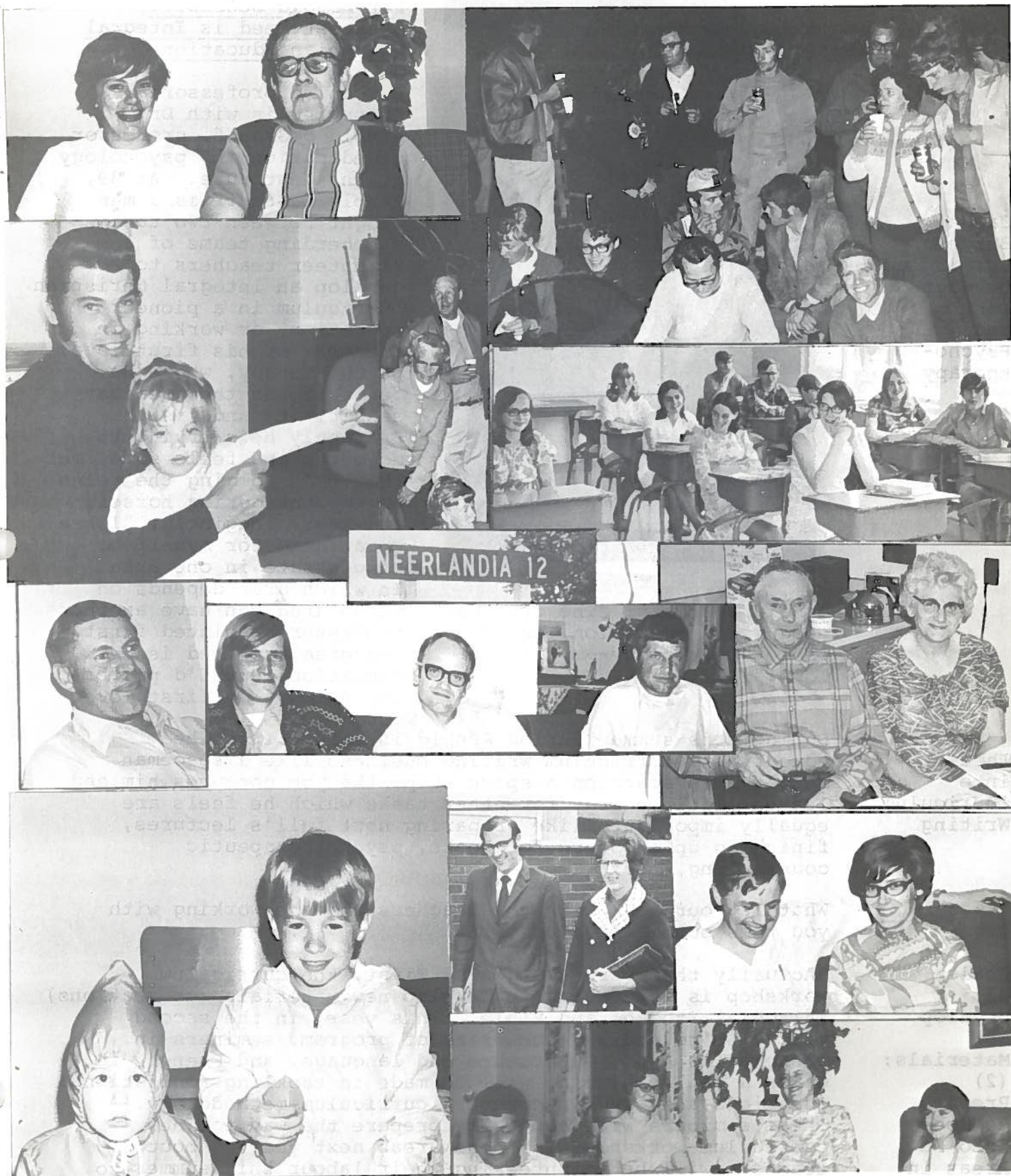
Thank you
For
Support,
Hospitality

I want to thank each one of you who encouraged me by your confidence and hard-working example; and I'd like to publicly thank all of you who offered hospitality to me on behalf of the Association. The pictures accompanying this article are a cross-section sample taken at random and by no means can convey the wide variety of persons I met and grew to appreciate.

ICS Remains at 141 Lyndhurst For Another Year

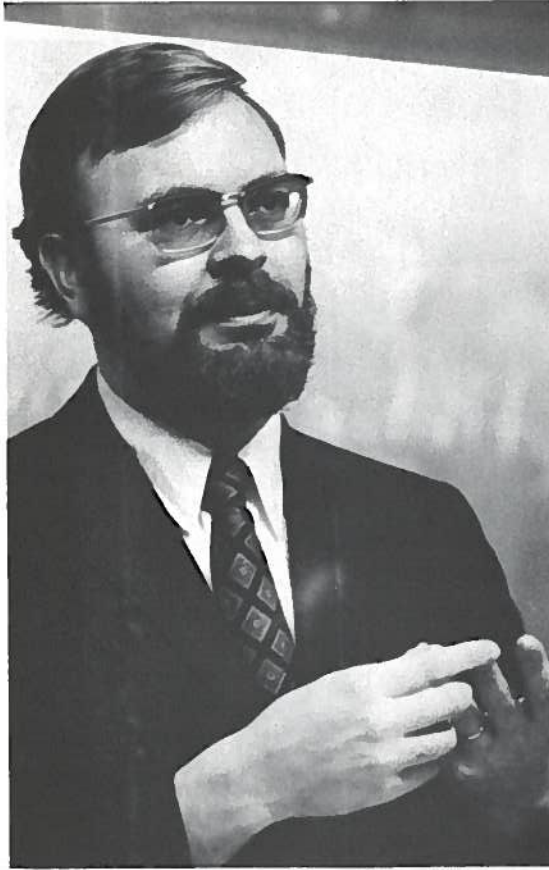
Still
Searching
For
a
Building

The Association offices and the Institute for Christian Studies will remain at 141 Lyndhurst Avenue in Toronto for another academic year. The vacating of the second storey apartment by Dr. Hart, and the continuing search for more adequate quarters were the chief reasons for staying put. The Institute will occupy the first floor and basement of the building; the Association will be housed on the second floor. This change in arrangements will make the work of the Institute and Association easier by sorting it out. Students will be able to study and attend tutorials and lectures without interference, and visitors to the Association will be better served by offices where there is enough room to operate with efficiency and privacy. The group of anonymous donors who have promised a building to the AACS and ICS remain faithful to their pledge, culmination of which is dependent on when suitable quarters can be found close to the University of Toronto. Please pray that we will find the right building.



Western supporters - young and old....

Caught
Between
Curriculum
Develop-
ment
and
Psycho-
therapy



For Arnold DeGraaff:
Greatest Need is Integral
Christian Education

Our third professorial interview is with Dr. Arnold DeGraaff, professor of education and psychology at the Institute. At 39, Arnold DeGraaff is a man caught between two tasks--shepherding teams of volunteer teachers to develop an integral Christian curriculum in a pioneer operation, or working in the area of his first love, psychotherapy, where he feels he has the greatest sensitivity and insight. Presently he's trying to do both, and feels sometimes that he's holding the reins on two thundering horses, and says, longingly, "I see great need for myself to concentrate in one area. In which area depends on which area can have another professor appointed first. The greatest need is in education, but I'd prefer psychology--my first love."

Arnold DeGraaff: "The greatest need is in education, but I'd prefer psychology--my first love."

Thrust
into
Curriculum
Writing

During this summer period Arnold is thrust into the educational curriculum writing business like a spaceman thrust into space on a space ship; the job consumes him and leaves little energy for other tasks which he feels are equally important, like preparing next fall's lectures, finishing up chapters for books, psychotherapeutic counselling, etc.

What is your goal with the teachers who are working with you this summer in education?

Goals:
(1)
Develop
New
Materials;
(2)
Prepare
to Move
into New
Areas in
Seminars

"Actually there are two goals: First, the curriculum workshop is attempting to develop new materials (or sections) in Social Studies and Bible. This year, in the second place, we're adding a new kind of program, seminars in mathematics, art, literature and language, and French, in which a real beginning will be made in tackling foundational questions and also in concrete curriculum methodology. These seminars will hopefully prepare the way for new curriculum workshops in these areas next year. About 35 teachers will be volunteering their labour this summer to make this ambitious project a reality."

Isn't this quite an ambitious project to undertake with teachers who aren't even curriculum experts? Why do you do it?

Limited
Project
Open to
Criticism

"I do think that there are real limitations in what can be accomplished by teachers in two week seminars and four week workshops, but the teachers can make genuine contributions to the further development of an integral Christian curriculum. No doubt about it--that it can be criticized from every angle--style, grammar, editing, logical arrangement, methodology, integration of ideas, etc. One can even ridicule it because of the tentative nature of the materials.

"But, and that's the big thing for me, no one else is attempting what these teachers are attempting to do. The goal is clear--not to rest, but to struggle with these things and achieve a real integrated course of studies."

What's an integral Christian curriculum?

Three
Levels of
Christian
Educational
Awareness

"As Donald Oppewal of the National Union of Christian Schools (NUCS) has put it so insightfully, there are three levels of Christian curriculum development that have evolved historically and can be analyzed structurally. First, there's the level of having the Bible and a secular curriculum for the other areas of study. Second, there's the level of realizing that the secular subject matter needs the redemption of the Bible's message, so Christian values and ideas are added to secular facts--the facts are neutral, but values are either Christian or anti-Christian. Thirdly, and most importantly, there is the level of insight in which it is seen clearly that the very content of the text books should be integrally re-interpreted by a Christian worldview--the actual way that economics and math are understood becomes different in themselves. This means rewriting the texts themselves, not supplementing them."

Must
Rewrite
Textbooks
Completely

But Dr. DeGraaff, isn't the creation the same for everybody?

Creation
Has a
Different
Religious
Meaning
for
People

"No. Quite frankly it isn't, there are deep differences of interpretation and understanding. It is the same world, the same existence, but it has a different religious meaning for people, depending on whether they are new creatures in Christ. To ask this question means that the questioner may have certain underlying assumptions; many Christians don't see the need for new curricula because they accept the neutrality of facts--that is, for example, that $2 + 2 = 4$, chemistry is chemistry, economics is economics for everybody--that idea is still so strongly present many Christians find it difficult to see that any textbook has a built-in religious vision of life.

"For example, underlying most social studies texts is a view of man and life which is directly contrary to a Christian view of man and life. Take the two charts below, for instance, they demonstrate the difference:

Humanistic curriculum

Man as biological organism living in groups, adapting himself to his natural environment in order to satisfy his physical and other learned needs; using his common sense reason (science and technique) to create a democratic community or the great society which will enable everyone, regardless of creed or color, to enjoy the good life.

Christian curriculum

God created the earth as man's home, where man shares the one task of all mankind to develop and care for God's creation according to His ordinances in such a way that all men can fulfill their religious calling before the face of the Lord and bring this creation toward its fulfillment. This is man's responsibility. In Jesus Christ, in spite of his fall, man may once more give himself to this task, witnessing to the new life in Jesus Christ.

Combatting
an
Evolution-
istic,
Hedonistic
View of
Life

"Of course the view on the left, the view that your children are probably getting subtly infused into their texts at school and from the lips of the teacher they trust, this view is an evolutionistic, hedonistic view of life. The texts state that bias very openly, even proudly. In no way can you harmonize this view of life with what the Scriptures reveal to us about man and the meaning of life.

"The fundamental question is: Do we really believe we can say something Christian about daily life and the creation? If not, then a Christian school system makes no sense whatsoever."

Is this why many Christians don't believe in distinctly Christian education?

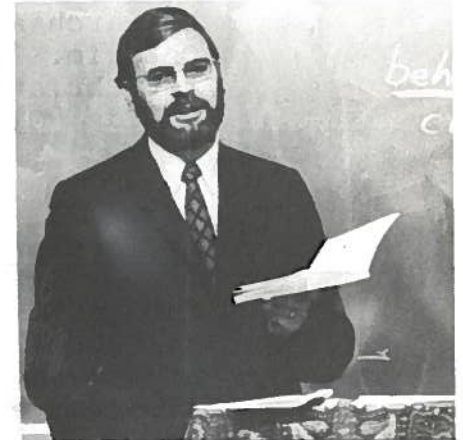
Is
Romans
1:18
Really
True?

"Yes, basically they don't believe there is something Christian to be said about life. In the background is the question of so-called 'general revelation'. Does God reveal Himself in the creation so that man, however fallibly, can come to know something of God's order for life? Is Romans 1:18ff really true? Does God reveal Himself to us in His creation? Many Christians say, 'Yes, He does, but we're blinded', or 'It's not as trustworthy.' And one must agree, because that's what it says. But in Christ and His Spirit we can begin again to begin to respond truly and to see again--we use the Scriptures as our glasses, as Calvin said."

But isn't Christian faith a matter of persons and not scholarship and school subjects?

We're
in the
Grip of
a Dualistic
Way of Life:
Natural
vs.
Spiritual

"Many Christians believe this because we're as yet so largely in the grip of a dualistic way of life--to use a natural realm and a spiritual realm in our thinking. For the spiritual realm we have the Scriptures proclaimed by the church, and out of that arises the call to witness, the call to evangelize persons, asking them to repent and believe in Christ. On the other hand, we have a natural sphere, that is, daily activities; these are tolerated as second best, really evil. With that view, people subscribe to the idea that Christian education is for evangelizing, because that's the most important thing.



We
Should
Not Limit
God's
Revelation
to the
Scriptures

"People who hold to this dualistic way of life can at best instill Bible values onto a basically secular curriculum. Since all we have is the Scriptures, we end up adding truths from the Scriptures to a curriculum where they're lacking. This happens when people think all we have is the Scriptures and limit God's revelation to the Scriptures. When we do, integral Christian education isn't really possible; you can only add truths and values from out of the Scriptures, at best. In light of this, if you believe that God's Word or revelation is broader than the Scriptures (as the Scriptures themselves testify in such passages as Romans 1 and the Psalms, etc.) then you're immediately faced with the urgent task of developing a curriculum that is founded on that revelation."

"The goal is clear--not to rest, but to struggle with these things and achieve a real integrated course of studies."

Scriptures
Testify
That
Word of
God is
Bigger

Why hasn't anyone ever done this before?

Christian
Day
Schools
a
Recent
Phenomenon

"Actually it's because Christian day schools (as opposed to Christian parochial schools--schools seen as extensions of the church) are a very late phenomenon historically. They've flourished under the influence of Calvinism in The Netherlands; the Christian day school movement dates from the late 1800's and early 1900's. It is only in the last 20 to 30 years that men like Jan Waterink could begin thinking about this in depth. But we've lacked the analytical tools to implement our faith until rather recently. As Blamire has noted in his book, The Christian Mind, we've lacked a Christian mind. Now that we have some first steps towards such a Christian mind in the analytical tools used by the Institute, we can make some real but limited progress."

How large a budget do you have for what appears to be the very important task of developing these integral Christian curriculum materials?

No
Money
for
Writing
or
Editing;
Will
Run
Deficit

"That's part of our greatest problem, we'll run a deficit of between \$1500 and \$2000 on this project. We have no money for such essential tasks as editing and writing this material over the coming year. This is a tragedy, but we are forging ahead in faith, knowing that the Lord will raise up His people to provide the finances once they see what is at stake. Since we have no budget and no editor and no competent writers, I think I should make a plea for funds. If you'd like to support a work which is vital to God's little children, send your gift to Curriculum Research and Development, 141 Lyndhurst Ave., Toronto 4, Ontario. Americans may make a contribution to the Foundation for Christian Studies, 1677 Gentian Drive, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508."

* * * * *

Miniscripts

- * Hendrik Hart spoke on "The Future of the Family and Education" at the New Directions for Society conference sponsored by the Christian Education Foundation of Calgary, Alberta, on April 30th and May 1st, 1971.
- * Mr. Martin La Maire of Chicago, a long-time supporter of the Association, recently wrote an article published in the March-April issue of The Other Side, entitled, "All-Out Christianity", a study of the convictions and programs of the AACS and ICS.
- * The second summer conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship will be held July 30 - August 1, 1971 at the College of St. Matthias, Fishponds, Bristol, England. Conference speakers will be Dr. Jan Dengerink on "The Christian and Politics", Dr. G. Birtwhistle on "The Christian and Art", and Mr. Richard Russell on "The Christian and Philosophy". British and Continental readers of the Newsletter should write to Mr. Irving Hexham, 24 Archfield Road, Bristol 6, England for information and registration forms.
- * California: An informal rap session is planned for this summer, featuring C.T. McIntire as a resource person. For time, location and discussion theme, please write to Mr. Dave Julien, 7368 Hollister Ave. #22, Goleta, Cal. 93017.
- * The Women's Action for the AACS is rapidly expanding throughout Canada and the U.S. Recently the first serious organizing in British Columbia has been initiated by a group of women on the Lower Mainland. If you'd like to help develop this ministry in B.C., please write to Mrs. Shirley Piers, 778 Lucas Road, Richmond, B.C.
- * John Hultink will recommend to the executive committee of the Women's Action that out of future contributions \$5000 be spent to expand the Institute's library, \$3000 be

used to expand the addressograph operation, and that \$2,500 be used to provide badly needed new office equipment.

* Theodore Plantinga has accepted a one year appointment at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec, to teach phenomenology, German idealism, and introductory philosophy. Ted is a member of the AACS and has been a part-time student at the ICS.

* Executive director John Olthuis in his other capacity as legal counsel for the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools, presided over the presentation of a 120,000 signature petition by the 66 school societies of the OACS in Ontario to the government, represented by Prime Minister William Davis and Minister of Education Robert Welch. Each of the societies were represented for their district, many by school children. The huge piles of signatures which resulted from the presentation were to, as one beaming 7-year old told me, "let the government know that we need justice and equality for all public schools in Ontario, including the Christian public school".

* Dr. Johan Stellingwerff, Chief Librarian of the Free University Library in Amsterdam, was a guest of the ICS on May 15-18. He was on a tour visiting the libraries of several outstanding universities in North America, including Columbia, Harvard, Yale, University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia. Dr. Stellingwerff is editor of the widely read Dutch Language CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE series. The most recently published volume in this series is by the editor himself. It is entitled, Introduction to the University: The Coherence of the Academic Disciplines and the Structure of a Scientific Library. Dr. Stellingwerff would greatly appreciate the cooperation of professors and students in North American universities and colleges in connection with the planned English edition of this book. He would like to receive information about the shaping forces, the history and the academic structure of American and Canadian universities so that he can more readily relate his own conception of the structure of the academic enterprise to Anglo-Saxon institutions. Related materials, including pertinent bibliographical references, can be sent to him c/o The Free University, P.O. Box 7161, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

* Arnold DeGraaff has been appointed to supervise the internship of Mr. Bruce Twining for three months with the Christian Counselling Service of Toronto. Mr. Twining is working for his Master's Degree at the University of Waterloo in the counselling section of the Human Relations Department.

Sincerely yours,

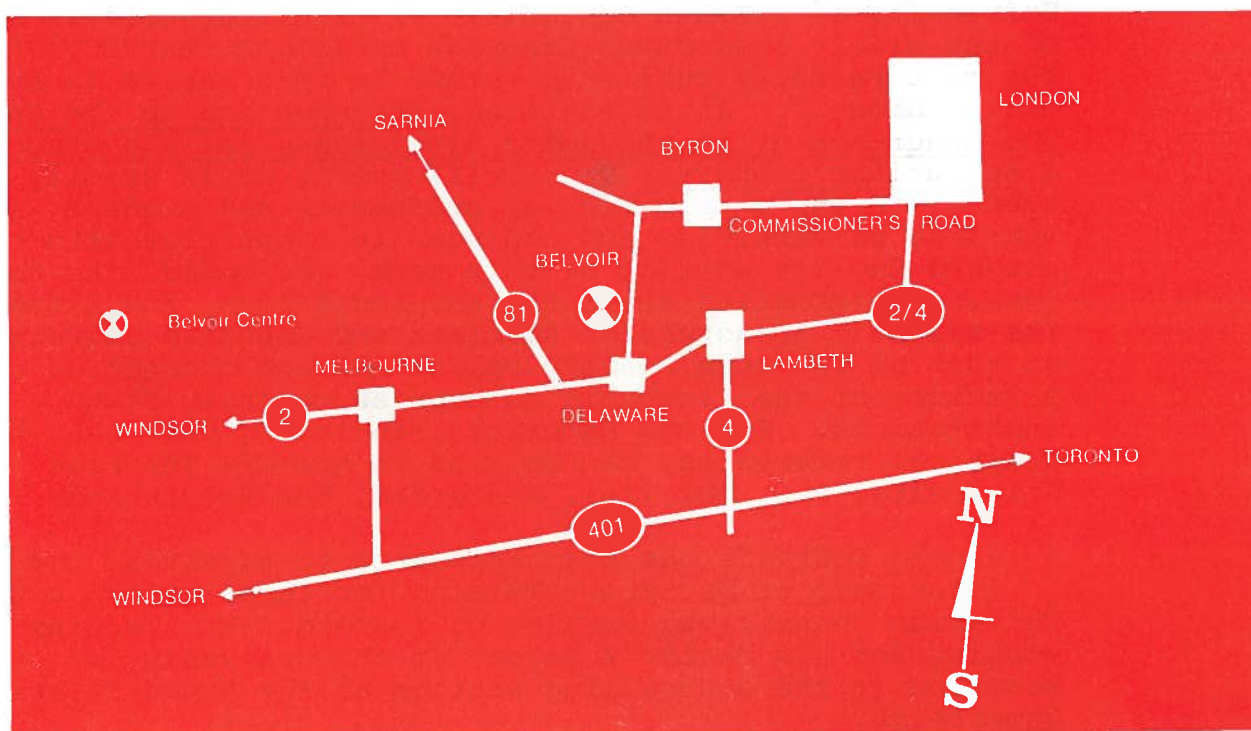

Robert Lee Carvill

Director of Communications

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