



INSTITUTE
FOR CHRISTIAN
STUDIES

News from the graduate school with a difference. Vol. 20, No. 6. — December 1986

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

LIBRARY CANADA

ICS inaugurates first senior member in education

by Carol-Ann Veenkamp



Dr. Harry Fernhout delivers inaugural address.

Photo by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

The solemn setting of an inauguration was offset November 1 by the resplendence of academic garb worn by participants and the banter exchanged from the lectern between ICS president Dr. Clifford Pitt, and fledgling senior member Dr. Harry Fernhout.

Just over 100 ICS supporters and academics gathered at Knox Chapel in Toronto on a sunny Saturday afternoon to witness the inauguration of Fernhout, 38, who was appointed senior member in philosophy of education in 1985.

In his introductory remarks, Pitt, 71, recalled that Fernhout's daughter Johanna had once confided to her Grade 1 teacher, "My daddy's going to be a teacher too — when he grows up!"

In response Fernhout told the audience that "there are those of us who grow up and start a teaching career at age 37; and then there are those of us (I won't mention any names of course!) who at age 70 find a niche in life."

ICS's *raison d'être*

Pitt's opening comments took a more serious turn when he defined ICS's *raison d'être* as introducing a Christian perspective into university disciplines and classrooms just as a Marxist or scientific or secular humanist view is brought to bear in other classrooms.

"We attempt to introduce what Christ might have to say to philosophy, to history, to practical theory, to theology, to aesthetics; and in that endeavour Dr. Harry Fernhout is our voice in the field of education," Pitt said.

He described Fernhout as a man of "great conviction, commitment, dedication, a clear brain and a clear purpose that drives him both on the theoretical and practical side."

Pitt synopsised Fernhout's educational path to his position at ICS: after he obtained a B.A. in philosophy at Dordt College, Fernhout came to ICS to do a

continued on page 3

Perspective

OUR
30th.
YEAR

Perspective

Perspective newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Institute for Christian Studies, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4.

Editor: Adriana Pierik

Managing Editor: Carol-Ann Veenkamp

Editorial Committee: Carol-Ann Veenkamp, Robert VanderVennen, Harry J. Kits, Adriana Pierik

Authorized Second Class Postage paid to the USA and Territories, mailed from Box 110, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092.

All other copies mailed under authorized Second Class privileges from Toronto, Ontario.

Send all address changes and other inquiries directly to ICS, 229 College St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4.

In This Issue

It's hard to believe that almost a year has passed since we first introduced you to a new look for Perspective to herald the arrival of the 30th anniversary of ICS.

Over the past year Perspective devoted many pages to its 30-year history as we drew from our community of memory even while adding to our collection.

The year has been full. You grieved with us at the death of Bernard Zylstra. You came to our summer conferences. You took note of the research coming to fruition at ICS. You came to our rescue when we couldn't meet the payroll. You prayed with us.

And in this issue we celebrate the inauguration of Harry Fernhout and take another peek at the past with Peter Schouls.

It's an appropriate season to rejoice. The staff at ICS prays that your Christmas is a blessed one and invites you to join us for the adventure 1987 promises!

CAV



From the President's Pen

By Clifford C. Pitt

*No room! No room!
No room for Thee, Thou Man of Galilee,
the house is full, yea overful.
There is no room for Thee. Pass on!
Pass on!
Nay see! The place is packed!
We scarce have room for our own selves,
So how should we find room for Thee,
Thou Man of Galilee?
But if Thou shouldst this way again,
And we can find so much as one small
corner free from guest — not then in
vain Thy quest.
But now, the house is full, pass on!*

*Christ passes on His ceaseless quest;
Nor will he rest with any —
Save as chiefest Guest!*

Ever since that night when the "No Vacancy" sign hung from the Bethlehem Inn, the Lord of all Creation has sought a lodging in our hearts. John, in a wondrous Revelation vision, hears Him declare, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I come in and eat with him, and he with Me." Rev. 3:20.

The Divine Initiative is taken! It is He Who knocks, not we who seek. He knocks upon our door over the years and perhaps, too, this Christmas time . . . in different ways . . . perhaps with gentle encouragements: "Come unto Me all ye who labour and are heavy laden . . ." or with the apocalyptic "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way. . ." perchance He knocks at the birth of your baby . . . the serious illness of a loved one . . . or in the happy bursting of your barns . . . in the deep love of those around you . . . in financial disaster . . . in the son or daughter returned Home . . . in the load of sin at long last heavily recognized and forgiven . . . in the lump in the throat at the spectacle of sunset and sea . . . in the dreams and visions of the night . . . He knocks . . . but how often we keep Him waiting outside:

*We scarce have room for our own selves,
So how should we have room for Thee,
Thou Man of Galilee!*

Remark Him King! He will not enter . . . "Save as chiefest Guest!" God wants us to fling widely open every room to Him. He wants His way in the kitchen, in the living room and library, in the bedroom. He would sit with you at the

family table, walk with you into the fields and pens, stand beside you in the factory, in your counting house, at your school, in the hospital or the office where you serve. He longs to company with you as you deal with your employees, as you serve your boss, as you and your wife discuss some decision, as you minister to your patients, as you raise your children. *All these rooms He would command!*

This Christ-knocking-on-the-door chapter of Revelation is a sweet and gracious passage but, mark you, a very dangerous one, too! To the Church at Laodicea, the wealthiest city in Phrygia during Roman times, widely known for its banking establishments, medical school and textile industry, to that church Christ says, "You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. . . . I know your deeds that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth. . . . Those I love I rebuke and discipline. . . ." We cannot escape the spiritual fact that there are *two* sides to Christ's coming as the babe in the manger.

*The safety of the world was lying there,
And the world's danger.*

Because you readers of this column have ministered so richly to us at ICS this past year — in your encouraging letters, your gifts, your love and your prayers — *I especially wanted to use this column this time to minister to you*, to make it a kind of Christmas present from me to you. So I brought you a Scripture: a passage which I thought was only full of God's love. But it wouldn't stay that way! It's packed with dynamite and danger too!

So let us open the door of our hearts to Him — not a niggardly, parsimonious slit, but flung wide open, prodigally open, extravagantly open, not counting the cost, counting only on His love and faithfulness — that the King of Glory may go in!

May the Lord richly bless you and yours this Christmas time: Anno Domini 1986! P

Fernhout continued from page 1

Master of Philosophy degree in philosophical theology. At the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), where he was awarded doctoral fellowships in the social sciences and humanities from 1982 through '84, he completed a second master's degree, this time in education. In 1985, Fernhout was awarded a Ph.D. degree by OISE upon successful defense of his dissertation, *Moral Autonomy and Faith Commitment: Conflict or Integrality*.

Will keep Kohlberg "honest"

Pitt said Fernhout has taken it upon himself to keep Lawrence Kohlberg, a leading exponent of moral development theory, "honest" by helping "the master" see where he is coming from in this theories about secular authority and moral development. (Kohlberg served as Fernhout's external examiner at his Ph.D. defense.)

Concluding his remarks, Pitt said Fernhout, like his book on 1 and 2 Samuel, *Promises Broken; Promise Kept*, shows enormous promise in the talents and personality God has given him.

"He has the promise of giving us outstanding leadership in a most difficult field, in the directions, the purposes, the values in education. I suggest he may well develop some benchmarks (perhaps today), which 10, 20, or 30 years hence will be seen as significant guide posts to the rest of us," Pitt said.

"We wish you, Harry, not good luck in your career, but God's great and rich blessing upon you to address us now."

Describes himself as a grinder

Calling Pitt's remarks damaging to his "humility quotient," Fernhout described himself as what is known in the sport of hockey as a "grinder" or a team player who delivers a dedicated workman-like performance rather than as a superstar.

"I see myself as a grinder on this interdisciplinary academic team. But a grinder can sometimes be stretched to achieve above his apparent ability level by playing in the right company. So I take courage from being part of an academic team, and I call upon my colleagues to support me in my task. Perhaps you can even make me look good by doing some fancy academic stick-

handling in your area, and then passing the puck so I can shoot it in the educational net," he said.

Fernhout also thanked the board of trustees and senate for having the vision to mandate ICS through his appointment to develop a master's program in education.

In his address, entitled, "Christian Philosophy of Education: Charting a Course" Fernhout sketched the important orientation points for philosophical reflection in education within the ICS setting.

"Today we will engage in charting a course; the actual journey will take years of persistent work. And that journey may have twists and turns we cannot anticipate today," he said.

Scope not limited to "religious"

Fernhout pointed out that in using the term Christian philosophy of education, he was not implying that the scope of his task at ICS is limited to a "religious" dimension of the educational enterprise, nor that his work will be of direct relevance only to Christian educational institutions. Rather, the adjective Christian defines the thrust of ICS as a whole, not the limit of the discipline.

"Our compass point is our confession that our world belongs to God, and that the name of Christ, the Lord of life,

deserves recognition in the mainstreams of education, not just in the side tributaries."

"My assignment, then, is to bring philosophical reflection rooted in our Christian vision of life lived in the presence of God, to bear on central educational concerns in the confidence that such reflection will play a salt-of-the-earth role in this field."

Fernhout went on to note that there is another side to his mandate. ICS had its birth and draws its sustenance from elements within the Reformed tradition of Christianity with its vision of the all-encompassing reign of God, which served as the motivating force in the development of Christian schools at the elementary, secondary, college, and graduate levels.

"By making an appointment in this field, the Institute's board intended to keep faith with this constituency," Fernhout said.

Will combine mandates

Fernhout suggested that there need not be an inherent tension between meeting the needs of Christian schools while also doing Christian philosophy of education with an eye toward witnessing to education as a whole.

"The educational philosophical chal-

continued on page 4



Prior to Fernhout's inaugural address, ICS chancellor Dr. Peter Schouls conferred M.Phil.F. degrees upon five students. Pictured are, left to right, Mary Rice, who received a Certificate in Christian Studies, and M.Phil.F. recipients Gary Duim, Henry Venema and Bruce Clemenger. Mark Roques and Lloyd Davies received the degree in absentia.

Photo by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

Fernhout continued from page 3

lenges and problems encountered in the education world in general will be met in Christian education settings as well."

To give a more specific focus to this task in philosophy of education, Fernhout took a temperature reading of the Christian educational community.

He suggested that among the educational leaders in this community there is a remarkable degree of unity concerning the goals of Christian education. These goals are sweeping and comprehensive and can be captured in the phrase "Education for Discipleship." Education is not aimed simply at accumulating knowledge or getting a job; it is for a life of Christian service. This broad vision, Fernhout argued, calls for an integrally Christian approach to education.

Christian schools have made a start

Fernhout went on to point out that there is also an awareness among leaders in the Christian educational community that Christian schools have only made a small beginning in consistently implementing that comprehensive vision. He cited the writings of two Christian educational leaders, Harro Van Brummelen and Nicholas Wolterstorff, to demonstrate his point.

Van Brummelen says the verdict on whether Christian schools are oriented to isolation, conformation, or transformation is not in yet, but surmises if they "stand for little more than middle class values and a lukewarm attitude toward radical Christian action, then we may as well close our doors." In a similar vein, Wolterstorff concludes that the Christian educational vision has outstripped

educational practice in our immediate tradition.

Fernhout proposed that Christian philosophy of education can play a role in narrowing this gap between vision and practice. Without the benefit of Christian philosophical reflection on key education issues, Christian educators tend to be swept along by the winds of secular educational thought, he said.

To deal with these winds of change from a position of strength, Christian educators need to put their house of education in good order. The *mandate* of Christian philosophy of education is to assist in designing and building that house by developing serviceable conceptual tools, Fernhout said.

Integrating role for philosophy

He qualified his statement by admitting that Christian philosophical reflection is not the salvation of Christian education. But, Fernhout said, it does play an instrumental role in bringing consistency between vision and practice, "and in the process of orienting both to biblical principles, such philosophical work is an important aspect of the overall Christian educational task."

"And the ICS graduate school setting, with its particular emphasis on dealing with foundational issues, provides an ideal context for such work," he stated.

Fernhout identified the nature of knowledge and of the learner as two interrelated issues which need urgent attention in Christian philosophical reflection. He asserted that Christian schools have often adopted what Eliot

Eisner calls an academic rationalist orientation, which identifies education with conceptual mastery of bodies of information. In this view, knowledge is equated with rational, conceptional understanding.

He said a movement toward a more biblical concept of knowing can help reinforce the idea of education for discipleship. In scripture, knowing is seen as interactive and relational as revealed in our relationship with God, people, and the rest of reality. This emphasis was beautifully captured by John Calvin who wrote that knowledge of Christ is not a matter of intellectual appropriation, but "must enter our heart and pass into our daily living and so transform us into itself that it may not be unfruitful for us."

Fernhout noted that on the broader educational scene there have been various efforts to challenge what John Dewey called the spectator view of knowing. Paulo Freire, for instance, rejects the banking concept, in which the learner is seen as an information receptacle; and Thomas Groome has developed a praxis view of knowing, based on his interpretation of the biblical view. Christian philosophy of education can work on the question of what is knowledge in dialogue with such thinkers, Fernhout said.

A Christian philosophical view of the learner, which meshes with the view of the nature of knowledge proposed by Fernhout, also takes its orientation from biblical revelation.

Scripture, Fernhout said, tells us who we are by presenting the picture of God creating human beings in His own image. The Bible has a holistic view of the learner — a unified being whose unity is expressed in a range of life activities rather than seeing the learner as a composite of different levels with the rational-moral self distinct from the lower, body elements.

"Concentrated attention to these issues of the nature of knowledge and the nature of the learner constitutes two important orientation points, I believe, for steering a course in Christian philosophy of education," he said.

Fernhout concluded his address by voicing the prayer that his work at ICS will contribute to the process of forming a Christian philosophy of education, that his gifts would be utilized, and that his "philosophizing contribute to the embodiment of the spirit of Christ, educationally." P



ICS president Dr. Clifford C. Pitt talks with Casper Vanderiet, the only surviving founder of ICS's parent organization, at the anniversary celebration.

Photo by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

ICS's women

by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

It has been said that behind every successful man there's a woman. Of course that dog-eared adage doesn't hold water in many cases, but it may well be true that behind every successful institution there are women. That's certainly the case with the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS).

In 1956, the year ICS's parent organization, the Association for Reformed Scientific Scholarship (ARSS) was born, Beatrice Zeyl was working as a nurse in Montreal. She saw a notice of the upcoming first membership meeting in one of the church papers and after consulting with her sister Jane, decided to go. Jane was a contributing member of the Free University of Amsterdam and saw the meeting as an opportunity for her sister to help found what they saw as the Free University of Canada.

Beatrice flew to Toronto airport where she met three men who were to play a vital role in the establishment of ICS: Dr. Paul Schrottenboer, Dr. H. Evan Runner, and Rev. Henry Venema. They drove to the meeting together.

At the meeting, Beatrice was greeted by Rev. Francois Guillaume, one of the group of four original founders of ARSS. He had been a minister in her hometown of Sneek, Friesland in the Netherlands before and after the Second World War.

"Where are the women?"

After looking around the room, Beatrice's first question was, "Where are the women?" She was told they were home. She was shocked for in Holland it had been customary for both men and women to attend such meetings.



Former board member, Karen de Waal

Beatrice sat through the meeting, listening attentively to the American home missionaries fight against the idea of establishing a Christian university in Canada. They maintained that one post high school institution was enough and already existed in the form of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

She kept her thoughts to herself until question period. When Guillaume asked if anyone in the audience had anything to say, Beatrice stood up.

"Do you have to be the first one?" Guillaume asked.

"Yes, pastor," she replied. "I think that as the only woman at this meeting, I am entitled to it."

On a piece of paper, Beatrice had written only one word, *faith*. Faith, she told them, is what is needed to start and to go on. The rest will follow.

On March 9, 1986 Beatrice Zeyl went home to be with her Lord, but her account of that first ARSS meeting lives on through her sister Jane, now 78, who wrote to us at ICS to tell us about it.

The silent partners

Beatrice Zeyl wasn't the only woman to have a say in the matters of ICS, nor is she the only woman to have made a contribution to its very existence. But by and large, women have been the silent partners of ICS, sending their husbands off to meetings while they stayed at home thinking of ways in which they could help.

ICS has always been in need of funds. This need was responded to on December 7, 1967 with the establishment of an independent provincial committee called *Women's Action for the ARSS*. Soon districts were formed and letters were sent to local committees to direct the participants to set up a penny bank action for the fledgling school. Once a year, the money collected was donated to ICS to be used to meet library and office equipment expenses.

Annie Vandezande was there when Women's Action started, and she describes it as "a movement by Christian ladies who wished to help in *their way* the cause of biblical teachings on the university level."

The women were directed to "take a 'busje' (tin) and set it on a buffet and you as women will be reminded that we have a task to do for our students, our future



Former trustee, Betty Westrik

leaders, who will be educated in the biblical way to promote God's kingdom in all areas of life."

Serving on the frontlines

The behind-the-scenes work of the women who collected the penny boxes helped during those early years. But women have also served at the frontlines of ICS. Board of trustee members Betty Westrik, Karen de Waal, Heather Marsman, Aukje Masselink, and most recently, newcomer Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman can testify to that.

Also, the composition of the administrative staff at ICS has seen women in majority throughout the years, and this is still the case today.

However, women have not penetrated the male ranks of the senior members to date, although ICS does have a female adjunct faculty member in Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen. Give them time. History isn't finished with ICS yet.

[P]

Edmonton celebrates ICS's thirtieth year

by Harry J. Kits

Celebration was the theme of the October 9 gathering of 80 Albertans who came to mark the 30th anniversary of the Institute for Christian Studies at an event organized by ICS's Edmonton chapter, and which I was able to participate in since I was in the city as part of my recruiting activities in Western Canada.

Longtime ICS member Jim Visser recalled the events in Edmonton's history of which ICS was a part. He described the visiting lecturers of the '60s, the work of the Christian Labour Association of Alberta, the Christian Action Foundation, the beginnings of *Vanguard*

continued on page 6

Christianity and Learning lectures February 25 & 26

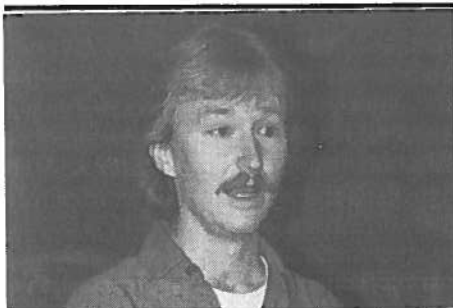
A widely respected scholar in the field of modern and contemporary Western philosophy, Dr. Merold Westphal, will give three lectures on "The Religious Uses of Modern Atheism: Explorations in the Hermeneutics of Suspicion" at the 1987 Christianity and Learning Lectureship to be held at ICS February 25 and 26.

Westphal's special interest in the field of modern and contemporary Western philosophy includes the contribution of this tradition to the philosophy of religion and ideology critique.

He is currently a professor of philosophy at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and has taught at Wheaton College and Yale University. He is the author of the award-winning book, *History and Truth in Hegel's Phenomenology* (1979/82) and more recently wrote *God, Guilt and Death* (1984/87) and *Kierkegaard's Critique of Reason and Society* (1986).

Westphal will present three lectures on Freud, Nietzsche, and Marx. The first, "The Psychoanalysis of the Believing Soul" takes place on February 25 at 3:30 p.m. At 8 p.m. that same day, Westphal will present, "The Twilight of the Idols Revisited." On February 26, his final lecture, "Orthodoxy and Ideology" will begin at 3 p.m.

Lectures are free and open to the public at ICS, 229 College St., Toronto. Call (416) 979-2331 for more information. [P]



Paul Nonnekes Photo by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

Paul Nonnekes, a graduate student at York University, gave a colloquium at ICS in which he explored the implications of "Post-Modernism and Christian Thinking."

Nonnekes chose to make his presentation at ICS in order to bounce some of his ideas off of its faculty and students prior to finalizing his dissertation at York. [P]

Keeping up with ICS Faculty

On November 7 and 8, ICS Senior Member in Philosophy of Education, **Dr. Harry Fernhout**, was guest speaker at the fall family conference of the Christian Medical and Dental Societies of Ontario. "Moral Education - Trends and Challenges" formed the theme of his three presentations to the group.

Through the months of October and November, *Calvinist Contact* published a series of five articles on "Shapiro - One Year Later" written by Fernhout. The articles took a reflective look at the report of the Commission on Private Schools in Ontario (commonly referred to as the Shapiro Report). Fernhout wrote the series with the intent of fostering an ongoing dialogue about the issues raised by the report among Christian school supporters in Ontario and elsewhere.

Dr. Hendrik Hart, Senior Member in Systematic Philosophy, recently had articles accepted by *Christian Scholars Review* (1986/87), *Philosophy and Theology* (1987), *Faith and Philosophy* (1988), *Dialogue*, and *Beweging*.

On October 24, **Dr. Paul Marshall**, Senior Member in Political Theory, gave a paper on Canadian views of the U.S. constitution at an annual conference on faith and history held at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts.

On November 7, Marshall represented ICS at a dinner organized by Ontario Bible College/Ontario Theological Seminary.

On November 8, Marshall attended the opening ceremonies of the new campus at Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ontario. That same day, he went to a sub-committee meeting concerning the structure of the proposed Reformed University in North America held at the Redeemer campus.

Edmonton continued from page 5

magazine, the roots of The King's College, the student study groups at the high school and university, and AACS conferences in Banff and Calgary. Many like-minded people (members of the ICS chapter) were involved in these activities.

ICS's senate chairman and chancellor Dr. Peter Schouls, who is also a professor of philosophy at the Univer-

Dr. James Olthuis, Senior Member in Philosophical Theology, led six Sunday morning seminars in late October, early November on the topic of identity, intimacy, and communications.

Olthuis also spoke at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York on November 9 on the topic of human sexuality.

Senior Member in Aesthetics, **Dr. Calvin Seerveld**, set aside two weeks from his sabbatical project to accept an invitation from Christian Reformed World Relief Committee field workers in Sierra Leone to lead a conference on "The Promise of Joy in Hard Times: A Retreat With the Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes" October 10 through 13. The retreat was organized by Harry Spaling of Drayton, Ont., who is field director of Christian Extension Services there.

After the conference, Seerveld and his wife Inez went up-country with Jan Disselkoen, formerly a teacher at St. Catharines, Ont. and Edmonton, Alta. Christian schools, and Angie Hoolsema for a week to see the Kuranko team at work 200 miles inland in the tropical African bush.

Dr. George Vandervelde, Senior Member in Systematic Theology, had an article entitled, "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry and the Quest for 'The Common Expression of the Apostolic Faith'" published in the November issue (Vol. 15, No. 10) of *Ecumenical Trends*, a publication of the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute in New York. The article deals with the landmark document of the World Council of Churches, *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry* (400,000 copies in print, translated in 30 languages), and places it in the larger context of the endeavour to manifest greater confessional unity among the churches. [P]

sity of Alberta, whetted the appetites of next year's conferees by giving a preview of his keynote address on responsibility and revolution, similar to the lectures he gave at the Southern B.C. conference last summer.

The stirring of memories and anticipation of more years of God's grace to ICS remained with the celebrants as they ended the evening with coffee and birthday cake. [P]

ICS is part of a Christian university in Canada

by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

There already is a Christian university in Canada, Dr. Peter Schouls told over 100 supporters and academics gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) on November 1.

"In essence that university already exists. It is small and weak and very vulnerable," he said.

This Christian university exists because at least three institutions in Canada share a prime requirement for any university — a fundamental religious faith commitment adhered to by its members, teachers and students.

Schouls proposed that ICS in Toronto, The King's College (TKC) in Edmonton, Alta., and Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont. together form a Christian university complete with graduate and undergraduate levels.

As undergraduate institutions, The King's and Redeemer attract a greater number of students than ICS, a graduate school. But in some of their courses the college students read various works by ICS scholars, and their professors share with those at ICS "the faith that we live in a created world which is being redeemed from its fall into sin, and in whose redemption we all have a place and task," he said.

Schouls pointed out that ICS is currently involved in discussions which may eventually result in the formal establishment of a fully-developed Reformed Christian University in North America.

Appeals for patience

In a second related point, Schouls appealed for patience from the Reformed community to allow for the continued development of a Christian university which will "equip men and women to bring the Word of God in all its power to bear upon the whole of life" as first envisioned by the founders of ICS in 1956.

Thirty years ago, ICS's supporters prayed for leaders, but some didn't like the leadership they received, he said,



Dr. Peter Schouls delivers anniversary address.

referring to troubled periods in the history of ICS.

"A good deal of the controversy of the past is much related to a misunderstanding of the nature and limits of leadership. Such misunderstanding has severely cramped the style of both communities and its leaders," he said.

He explained that, by its very nature, scholarship at ICS is done at the frontiers of knowledge, which is "an exhilarating as well as frightening thing to be involved in."

"At the cutting edge of research you are so very often (by the very nature of the work) very much alone. Alone with the demons of pride and self-sufficiency — forces of which your own heart is not fully free. And so the struggle at the cutting edge of scholarship is also often a struggle with yourself. It would be desperately lonely there were it not for the grace of God which makes you triumphant. God's grace helps you discern what is wrong, and allows you to build new roads."

However, sometimes, Schouls said,

the newly built road turns out to be a detour or even a blind alley. A Christian scholar needs the Christian community for support so that "fear turn neither into enervating panic nor self-righteous assertion."

He asked the public to also understand that "when at the cutting edge of scholarship you have been intensely struggling with the powers of this world, with the writings of those who deny that there is a 'revelation of God in Jesus Christ' because they deny there is a God, then to reenter the camp of those who believe in this 'revelation of God in Jesus Christ' and find them preoccupied with issues like the debate on how this God should be served in public worship and who of all capable people should be allowed to proclaim his Word in public worship, this can come across as shockingly petty. It would appear irrelevant if it were not for the fact that you see it as a waste of God-given talent all around. . . . For there can be impatience and not enough sensitivity for where the community is at!"

Early years have own merit

The years between the founding of an organization to spearhead the growth of a Christian university in Canada and the establishment of ICS have merit in themselves, Schouls said.

Although he didn't attend the first conference sponsored by the forerunner of ICS, the Association for Reformed Scientific Scholarship, a lecture by one of its speakers, Dr. H. van Riessen, was the beginning of a turnaround in Schouls's life.

Schouls recounted how as a graduate student in philosophy at the University of Toronto his faith had become "a cowering, pitiful thing."

"For years, the claims of what I took to be objective reason had struggled in my life with the claims of what I took to be subjective faith," he said. "One of them would have to be triumphant."

Van Riessen's talk about responsibility and meaningful service changed "I am because I think" into "I am because I respond" for Schouls.

"Responsibility, service, that is what our association stood for. And that is what was instilled deeply in the students it was allowed to serve," he said.

Leaders formed at clubs

Also from those early conferences and clubs came the leaders prayed for by

continued on page 8

Schools continued from page 7
the association's first chairman, Peter Speelman, at the first public meeting 30 years ago.

"These were the important years, the in-between years. Many of those groomed for leadership in that period were, and still are, the ones whose life is much involved with the 19 years of the Institute's existence," Schouls said.

These leaders include ICS professors Hendrik Hart, George Vandervelde, and the late Bernard Zylstra, and TKC's Harry Cook and Sid Greidanus, all from H. Evan Runner's Groen Club at Calvin College. From Remke Kooistra's student club at the University of Toronto came ICS board member Leo Jonker and ICS senator Bill VandenBorn. Past executive director John Olthuis and present senior member Jim Olthuis came from Bastiaan Nederlof's camp.

With the establishment of the Institute in 1967, the senior members were able to formally teach a new generation of leaders, many of whom have become teachers at both Christian and secular institutions. ICS graduates Paul Marshall, Harry Fernhout, and Bill Rowe returned to teach at the Institute after obtaining their doctorates.

'Graduates' form university

"They, together with the older generation of 'graduates' from the college and university clubs and the conferences of the early leaders of the late fifties and early sixties, with many others working alongside them, in effect together with the students at their various places form a Christian university in Canada — not quite like that envisioned by the early leaders of our association, but a Christian university nevertheless."

Schouls also paid tribute to Bernard Zylstra, first president of ICS, and praised current president Clifford Pitt whose "gifts we so desperately needed and which our faithful God gave us as a marvellous surprise at a time when we needed encouragement more than we could then possibly have known."

"May we continue to serve the whole world and especially our Christian community while understanding the latter's apprehension of walking untrodden paths. . . . May none of us, through pride or fear or stubborn self-assertion, trample underfoot this new stage of development which goes far beyond the walls of ICS, but for which our association came into being: 'to establish . . . a Christian university and [so] . . . equip men and women to bring the Word of God in all its power to bear upon the whole of life.'"

[P]

Alumni action news

Dick and Mary Bergstra both have returned to vegetable market gardening in Owen Sound, Ont. after serving for nine years in Haiti as missionaries with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. Dick worked as an agriculturist and community developer with the poor in Haiti's Central Plateau region. Mary worked with the women to set up enterprises to increase family income. The couple adopted Haitian twins, Marianne and Suzanne, now 5, and also have a one-year-old son, Jared.

Lowell Hagan, currently a teacher at Bellevue Christian High School in Washington, served as principal writer of a new story Bible for children published by Eerdmans under the title, *Theirs is the Kingdom*.

Brian Walsh and ICS trustee Kenneth W. Hermann contributed four of a total of six chapters to a book aimed at reaching Korean students. The book has been translated into Korean and was published by InterVarsity Press. Walsh's chapter, "How to think your way through college" is an article reprinted from *HIS* magazine. Hermann's chapters are

"Thinking Christianly about university study," "The meaning of a Christian academic perspective," and portions from his bibliography "Every thought captive to Christ."

Walsh also recently had a series of three articles printed in McMaster University's *Silhouette* on "Religion and West," "Religion's place in university," and "Science no guarantee."

David T. Koyzis received his Ph.D. degree in political science in November from Notre Dame University. His dissertation, "Towards a Christian Democratic Pluralism: A Comparative Study of Neothomist and Neocalvinist Political Theories" compared the political theories of Herman Dooyeweerd and Yves R. Simon, who taught at Notre Dame in the 1940s.

Koyzis received a Master of Philosophical Foundations degree from ICS in 1982 after writing a thesis on the political ideas of Hannah Arendt under the supervision of Dr. Bernard Zylstra. He came to ICS after graduating from Bethel College in Minnesota. [P]

Cockburn to be interviewed by ICS interim course class

Canadian songwriter/performer Bruce Cockburn has agreed to be interviewed by the students of the interim course on "Marxism, the Arts, and Society" at the invitation of ICS graduate and current associate professor of philosophy at Calvin College Dr. Lambert Zuidervaart who will lead the seminar January 6 through 28 at ICS.

The question period with Cockburn will satisfy the requirements for students to interview an activist, artist, or scholar for the course.

In addition to Cockburn's interview, students will be expected to do assigned readings, participate in daily three-hour seminars, and write a report.

The course is designed to provide an introduction to Marxist aesthetics, its history, and central themes. Students will read and discuss short writings by Marx, Engels, Trotsky, Walter Benjamin, and Adorno.

Zuidervaart chose to lead an interim on Marxism, the arts and society because Marxists have typically struggled with questions which are also of great interest to Christians. Two such questions are: Is the study of an art form neutral? What are the factors shaping one's artistic practice?

During the course, students will explore those questions as well as try to determine how religion, economics, and political factors hang together in the practice of art.

Registration for the course is open to a limited number of students who meet admission requirements. The tuition fee is \$225. Additional expenses for books, materials, tickets, and local transportation are estimated at \$125.

Phone or write the ICS Admissions Office at (416) 979-2331 or 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4 for more information. Deadline for application is December 31. [P]

Senators and trustees approve changes to Ph.D. program

Opportunities for Christian graduate education in North America have been enriched by developments at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto, Ont. ICS's senate and trustees recently approved changes to the Ph.D. program which promise to clarify both curriculum and credit transfer to the sponsoring Free University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Under a newly standardized format, doctoral studies in eight distinct areas of philosophy can now be completed through ICS.

The standardization of a program of studies was the work of Dr. Hendrik Hart, professor of systematic philosophy and director of doctoral studies at ICS. Hart took advantage of a parallel structure at the Free University to devise a complementary curriculum for ICS students. His work establishes a format for doctoral students to pursue programs in systematic philosophy, history of philosophy, political philosophy, aesthetics, philosophy of religion, philosophical theology, philosophical anthropology, philosophy of education, and philosophy of history.

The four-year doctorate builds on the Institute's own Master of Philosophical Foundations degree. While most or all of the work is undertaken in Toronto, the degree itself is awarded by the Free University. Given appropriate preparation, master's graduates from other schools can also be accepted into the program.

Doctoral studies were initiated at ICS in 1980. Currently six students are enrolled in the program. The first graduate, Dr. Lambert Zuidervart, is associate professor of philosophy at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Vaden House, a student due to graduate in 1987, has recently been appointed assistant professor of philosophy of sciences at The King's College in Edmonton, Alta.

For more information about ICS's programs, write Admissions at 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4 or call (416) 979-2331. P

ICS — 229 = ICS

by Nicholas Terpstra
Trustee

That cryptic formula isn't lifted out of a chemistry or physics textbook. Rather it expresses the reality of the Institute's current financial situation and the result of a possible solution. What would the Institute be without its current building at 229 College Street in Toronto? Still a Christian graduate school offering doctoral and master's programs that prepare Christian students to become Christian educators and professionals!

Why get rid of the building? Put briefly, our accumulated debt is now over \$1 million, while the building is worth over \$3 million. Part of that debt is due to the expansion of our program to include the vital areas of education and history of philosophy. Another part has been related to the building, particularly the difficulty in renting the space left vacant when a major tenant went bankrupt owing over \$40,000 in back rent. The 73-year old building is now due for some major repairs or a total redevelopment, which would be beyond the means of ICS. The board of trustees has therefore authorized the Finance and Property Committee to investigate disposing of the building. However, dispose doesn't necessarily mean sell. We are looking at various development possibil-

ities which could, for instance, reduce our share of the building's ownership in return for a cash settlement and continued ownership of our own floor (3,000 square feet of the total 42,000 square feet at 229 College).

The situation is serious and calls for creative thinking and concerned prayer. What challenge is God putting before us in our thinking about ICS as a school, a building, a mission? Only part of our big debt is building-related, so disposing of the building isn't a magic cure. The real challenge lies in the educational mission, the ICS vision of a Christian graduate school.

Over 40 former ICS students now serve as professors in Christian colleges and secular universities; many others are teaching in Christian high schools. More are studying here now. The question is not whether we can afford to continue this work — the question for the entire Christian community is whether we can afford *not* to continue. P



Trustees and department heads met at ICS October 31 to make decisions about programs and directions.

Photo by Rita Vander Veen

Development Notes



by Harry
Kits

This column regularly reports to you on the financial side of the development task of ICS. Another side of development is student recruitment. ICS is a school and thus its reason for being is the constant flow of new students. Donations allow us to provide an education for those students.

Part of my specific task is coordinating the whole recruiting program at ICS. In many ways, recruiting is not something which I can do most effectively myself; rather the friends and supporters of ICS are the crucial recruiters.

Many of the letters of inquiry which we receive come from people who have heard of ICS from an acquaintance or from reading about ICS somewhere. Alumni and others who are involved in academic activities have proven to be our best recruiters.

We are currently writing to many of these key people, but inevitably will miss someone who can help. If you want to know more about our programs and courses in order to advise potential ICS students, please write and ask for our academic bulletin and other information. Others who are not in direct contact with potential students, but who know someone who would make a good candidate for studies here, can send us a name and address and we will contact such a person and introduce them to ICS.

This year's students are already being introduced to you in the pages of *Perspective*. They have come from many places in the world and have helped to maintain the multi-denominational, multi-cultural nature of ICS's student body. May God grant us the resources and the guidance in bringing many more such students to the doors of ICS in the next year. Pray for that to happen and spread the word about the work of ICS to students whom you know.

[P]

Board of trustees elects new executive committee

At their semi-annual meeting on October 31, ICS's board of trustees elected a new executive committee.

These new officers are:

Chairman: *Fred Reinders*, president and chief executive officer of *Reinders Group Ltd.*, a national engineering and development company whose recent projects include Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont. A member of Clarksen Christian Reformed Church in Mississauga, Reinders has contributed many years of service to the movement for Christian education.

Vice-Chairman: *Aukje Masselink* of Toronto, teacher with the Scarborough Board of Education and educational consultant on child development. A member of First Christian Reformed Church in Toronto, Masselink has played

a major role in organizing the annual ICS Niagara family conference, and currently serves on the Administrative Review and Development Advisory Committees at ICS.

Treasurer: *John Jeronimus*, a regional engineer for bridges and structures with CN Rail. A member of Clarksen Christian Reformed Church, Jeronimus has been a chairman of the local Christian school board. He also serves as chairman of the ICS Property and Finance Advisory Committee.

Secretary: *Rev. Herman Praamsma*, pastor of Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Rexdale, Ont. and part-time chaplain at York University. Praamsma has had a long association with ICS; in the 1970s he served on its board of trustees and directors. [P]

Meet a new student: Nik Ansell

I first heard of ICS about five years ago while I was a theology student at Bristol University in England. At that time I shared a house with Peter Corps and Mark Roques who have both studied at the Institute since then. We had all been introduced to the reformational vision by Richard and Janice Russell who were in the same church as us. This brought home to me the fact that the dualistic evangelicalism that I had been used to was virtually irrelevant to large areas of life – including the university. I also realized that Christians did not need to become secularized in their thinking in order to be “relevant.” Academically I could see that it was possible to be critical of the assumptions that shape much modern theology while still being able to do creative work.

Reformational thinking has major implications for all areas of life which makes it an exciting and challenging tradition to be aware of. At the same time, it is virtually impossible to work out these implications unless it becomes a corporate Christian struggle. This struck me repeatedly over the past two years while I was working for an organization that gave work experience to the long-term unemployed by developing a program that tried to meet the needs of the elderly in southern Bristol.



Nik Ansell is a philosophical theology student

Photo by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

So far I am very impressed with the Institute. The combined wisdom of the Senior Members is quite staggering and Toronto provides a great environment. I am studying philosophical theology and hope to focus on feminist theology. “Christianity and Feminism” is an explosive topic for many Christians at the moment and there are many philosophical and hermeneutical issues that need our attention if we are to avoid the pull of both conservatism and revolutionism. ICS seems to be the ideal place to explore those issues. [P]

Fernhout supervises story Bible publication



Eerdmans Publishing Company recently released *Theirs is the Kingdom*, a New Testament story Bible written by Jack Westerhof and Lowell Hagan. This event marked the partial completion of a publication project which ICS senior member Dr. Harry Fernhout has been involved with for eight years.

Theirs is the Kingdom had its beginnings when, while a graduate student in Holland, Westerhof, now pastor at the Willowdale Christian Reformed Church, was asked to work on the English version of G. Ingwersen's *Bijbel in vertelling en beeld*. Later it was decided to develop a new English children's Bible using Westerhof's work as a basis. Hagan, a former ICS student who now teaches at a Christian high school in Washington, was brought in as the "storyteller."

Fernhout was a member of the editorial team which interacted with Hagan on the development of the manuscript for the book. Fernhout also served as project manager, with responsibility for directing the process of obtaining illustrations and a publisher.

"The text provides a fresh and lively retelling of the gospel story," he said, "and Paul Stoub's illustrations are captivating. I'm thankful this project has been blessed with such a beautiful result. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and get back to work on the Old Testament portion." [P]



Serving Through Public Education

by Robert E. VanderVennen

A Hermeneutics of Ultimacy: Peril or Promise? is the title of a new book on understanding the Bible of which ICS Senior Member Dr. James Olthuis is principal author. The book was co-published in December by ICS and the University Press of America.

A small book of 90 pages, the largest part is a major, creative paper by Olthuis, in which he presents a constructive proposal for a more consistent way of interpreting the Bible. Olthuis proposes that the Bible's central message regarding "ultimate" questions of the meaning of life and death is really the central clue for the most appropriate method of interpretation. Olthuis honours evangelical concerns about the authority of the Bible, while working in the context of contemporary philosophical discussions led particularly by Michael Polanyi, Hans-Georg Gadamer and Paul Ricoeur.

In a time when Christians interpret Scripture in a variety of ways, and often with very conflicting results, knowing how to interpret Scripture properly is high on the theological agenda. Olthuis has worked on this subject at ICS for many years.

A feature of this book is evaluations of Olthuis's proposal by leading North American theologians Clark Pinnock, Donald Bloesch and Gerald Sheppard. All of them participated in a conference held at ICS in 1981 at which Olthuis presented these ideas. The critics express both positive and negative comments. The final part of the book is Olthuis's response to his critics.

Olthuis says that since the underlying purpose of the Bible is to present its life-giving message to build our faith, it is at that level that the ultimate meaning

and certainty of the Bible must be read. Therefore a faithful hermeneutic of Scripture will be *pastoral*, that is, appropriate to its redemptive and edifying purpose. Any interpretation which does not build faith is misleading and inadequate.

This book is sure to generate much interest and discussion among theologians. You can order your copy from ICS for \$12.75, including postage.

New correspondence courses

Two new Correspondence Reading Courses have been prepared since the last report in *Perspective*. They are "Introduction to the Economy" by Dr. Jasper Lesage of Dordt College, and "Technology in a Christian Perspective" by Prof. Charles Adams, also on the faculty at Dordt. Both of these courses help readers focus on distinctive Christian thinking in ways that are helpful to the non-specialist as well as to the specialist. Credit for the courses applies to the ICS Diploma in Christian Studies. The fee of \$100 per course covers all the required materials.

These courses are added to the first three courses: "Christian Worldview" by Brian Walsh, "Christian Schools" by Harro Van Brummelen, and "Science in a Christian Perspective" by Robert VanderVennen.

Academic Papers

Some splendid new academic papers have been produced recently in our ongoing effort to encourage people to interact with the Christian scholarship in which ICS is engaged. See the order form in this issue for a recent listing - you can also get our free listing of over 100 papers for the asking. [P]

Loenen slides in with Vander Zalm

Last February, the staff at ICS held a farewell party for Nick Loenen when he left his position as the Institute's representative in British Columbia after almost 10 years to concentrate on his work as an alderman in Richmond, a suburb of Vancouver.

In October, Loenen, along with his running mate B.C. Premier Bill Vander Zalm, won a seat in the Victoria legislature under the Social Credit banner in the dual riding of Richmond. Vander Zalm captured 25,731 votes, Loenen brought in 22,543. [P]

Perspective

newsletter (USPS 335-530) is published bi-monthly by the Institute for Christian Studies, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4. Telephone: (416) 979-2331.

ISSA 0384-8922. All other copies mailed under authorized Second Class Reg. No. 2091, Toronto, Canada. Send all address changes and other inquiries directly to ICS, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4.

Is your address correct?
Address change requested
Return postage guaranteed

Come out of the cold!

**Take an evening course
at ICS this winter!**

Biblical Foundations: New Testament

Mondays, 7 to 10 p.m.
January 12 to April 13
Instructor: Dr. George Vandervelde

Central Issues in Christian Philosophy of Education

Tuesdays, 7 to 10 p.m.
January 13 to April 14
Instructor: Dr. Harry Fernhout

Marriage and Marital Therapy

Wednesdays, 7 to 10 p.m.
January 21 to April 22
Instructor: Dr. Stan Skarsten

Prerequisites for these courses include a four-year B.A. in an appropriate field if taken for credit, and permission of the instructor if audited.

For more information, call or write:

ICS Admissions
229 College Street
Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4
(416) 979-2331

Deadline for application is
December 31.

PLACE YOUR ORDER

New Books

A Hermeneutics of Ultimacy: Peril or Promise? by James Olthuis	\$ 11.50	_____
Keeping Our Troth: Staying in Love through the Five Stages of Marriage , by James Olthuis	\$ 18.95	_____
Promises Broken; Promise Kept: A Reader's Guide to I and II Samuel , by Harry Fernhout	\$ 14.95	_____

New Papers

Faith Development in the Adult Life Span , by James Olthuis	\$ 0.75	_____
Evolutionary Dialectics and Segundo's <i>Liberation of Theology</i> , by James Olthuis	\$ 0.75	_____
Law and Worldview: Problems in the Creation-Science Controversy , by David S. Caudill	\$ 1.25	_____
Barth's Doctrine of Nothingness , by Jeffrey Dudiak	\$ 1.00	_____
Popper's Third World , by Mark Roques	\$ 1.00	_____
Aristotle and Imagination , by Henry Venema	\$ 1.25	_____
Individualism, Collectivism and Dooyeweerd's Social Theory , by John L. Paterson	\$ 1.25	_____
A Christian Philosophical Approach to Landscape Planning , by G. Angus Hills	\$ 1.00	_____
Rationality and Creativity: A Design for a Critical, Constructive Theology , by Wentzel van Huyssteen	\$ 1.50	_____
The Kingdom of God: Its Foundations and Implications , by Bernard Zylstra (1970)	\$ 1.00	_____
Correspondence Reading Courses (list titles you want)	each \$100.00	_____

Subtotal _____

Add 10% for mailing (books and papers only) min. \$1.00 _____

Total (payment enclosed) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Order from ICS, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4

Institute for Christian Studies Institutional Repository

ARTICLE: 19862006

TITLE: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies)

AUTHOR: Institute for Christian Studies

ISSUE DATE: December 1986

TYPE: Journal

SERIES/JOURNAL: Perspective; v.20, no.6

KEYWORDS: Institute for Christian Studies, ICS, graduates, M.Phil.F., gender equity, treatment of women, ARSS, Nik Ansell

NOTES: ICS inaugurates first senior member in education [Dr. Harry Fernhout], ICS's women, ICS is part of a Christian university in Canada [30th Anniversary address by Dr. Peter Schouls],

CITATION FORMAT: Perspective. Toronto, ON: Institute for Christian Studies, 1986.

dc.creator: Institute for Christian Studies

dc.contributor: Veenkamp, Carol-Ann

dc.title: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies)

dc.date.issued: 1986-12-31

dc.date.accessioned: 2012-05-03

dc.type: journal

dc.format.mimetype: application/pdf

dc.language.iso: en

dc.subject: Humanities

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--History

dc.subject: Fernhout, Harry--Inaugural lecture

dc.subject: Inaugural lecture (Institute for Christian Studies)

dc.subject: Education--Philosophy

dc.subject: Women's Action for the AACs

dc.subject: Feminism and higher education

dc.subject: Schouls, Peter A

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Students

dc.rights: Copyright, Institute for Christian Studies, all rights reserved.